EPA urged to revisit stringent job requirements for CUC. » PAGE 2

Nepalese citizens urged to apply for 'protected status' » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Business losses 'close to $21M'

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

The estimated losses sustained on the day when all communications broke down in the CNMI is "close to $21 million," according to Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan).

Benavente

He said this estimate was given to him during a meeting he had with several businesses on the island.

Benavente said he was told that the "collective losses could reach close to $21 million on the day" that all of the communications, including mobile phone and Internet services went down on July 8 when the submarine fiber optic cable linking the CNMI to Guam was damaged.

The massive outage effectively isolated Saipan from the rest of the world.

The minority lawmaker did not specify the businesses he talked with,

See BUSINESS on Page 4

Repair ship set to arrive today

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The ship set to repair the undersea fiber optic cable between Saipan and Tinian is scheduled to arrive today, Thursday, IT&E sales and marketing manager Hans Mickelson said.

"We are still set for tomorrow," Mickelson said yesterday. "Hopefully, it didn't hit any inclement weather and it will show tomorrow and we can start to begin."

The ship, heading from Taiwan, was originally scheduled to arrive Wednesday, July 22, after departing Taiwan at 10pm last Thursday. When it does arrive, IT&E is expected to load the vessel with equipment needed for repair and begin right away on this process.

Depending on the initial investigation, identifying the "break" location, and the type of break, IT&E expects a potential 48-hour repair timeline.

Mickelson said once the "splice" is fixed, Internet speeds would be back to normal.

"It's going to be night and day," he said.

Meanwhile, the Internet speeds users experience will be the capacity

See REPAIR on Page 4

Dynamic plans HK-Saipan flights

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Dynamic Airways is working with local agencies to fly a Hong Kong to Saipan, local agency officials and an airline representative confirmed.

"We have been in discussion with Dynamic regarding their planned operation from Hong Kong to Saipan. They are currently working out some logistical issues locally," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday.

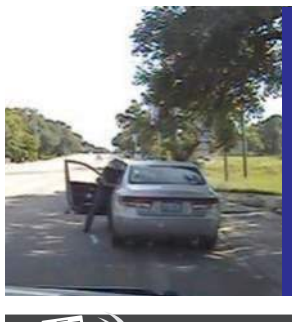
Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama separately confirmed that Dynamic has expressed a plan to fly from Hong Kong to Saipan starting July 19.

"Dynamic Air is sorting out the re-

See DYNAMIC on Page 4

SUMMERTIME
Flame tree petals decorate not just the trees but also the road in this curve of the highway from the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.
JON PEREZ

INSIDE



NATION
A dashcan video shows how a traffic stop escalated into a confrontation.
» PAGE 16

ASIA
In this year's annual defense report, Japan sees China as a regional threat.
» PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
President Barack Obama and Jon Stewart share a moment of senioritis.
» PAGE 21

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Local

EPA urged to revisit stringent job requirements for CUC

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Citing the CNMI's financial unattractiveness, now may be a good time for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to revisit stringent job requirements for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s top positions, according to a CUC letter to the regulatory agency.

The letter to EPA, from then-executive director Alan Fletcher, described CUC's many efforts to recruit and hire individuals for court- ordered positions, which EPA oversees and vets.

Other positions that need to be filled are the deputy executive director, drinking water and wastewater division manager, and technical manager for oil positions.

"CUC continues to struggle financially and is limited on the salary and benefits offered. Unfortunately, financial uncertainty, among other factors, may be the reason CUC has not been able to attract greater numbers of industry professionals to the CNMI. This may be an opportune time to consider re-evaluating requirements for all [stipulated order] positions to assist CUC obtain and retain compliance," CUC said.

According to acting CUC executive director John Riegel on Tuesday, they had not yet received a reply from EPA on the letter.

In its letter to EPA, CUC says the search for a new executive director has commenced and is ongoing with advertisements in the local papers and national industry-specific bulletins.

For the deputy executive director position, CUC says they have been unable to recruit a suitable candidate for the position after previously conducting four full recruitments for the job. These recruitments are conducted nationwide.

For the position, CUC says they have had about 66 applicants or interested candidates, though many have been repeat applicants over the two years worth of ads. Two applicants out of 22 who showed "promise were turned down by EPA, and a third rescinded," CUC says.

Most recently, CUC said they have received eight additional applicants from recruitments that closed in March. They are vetting the candidates.

"Irrespective of this recruitment, CUC respectfully requests to defer further recruitment until arrival of a new executive director so that he/she will be part of the selection process," CUC states.

CUC said this may also be time to consider revisiting the position's requirements as listed in court-stipulated orders, as the job's requirements are virtually identical to the executive director.

On the water manager position, CUC has run continual recruitment since 2014. CUC is currently in the interview process for the six most qualified candidates.

On the technical manager for oil job, CUC says they recruited internally for the position. Since 2010, though, CUC says they have employed three separate

See EPA on Page 4

Alter City Group to hold public hearing today

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Alter City Group will be holding a public hearing today at the Tinian Elementary School starting from 5:30pm, during which it intends to present its project plans to the Tinian community.

According to Albert Davia, Alter City senior vice president for gaming & business development, the public hearing will be attended by their chief executive officer, Edvon Sze.

Managing director Ken Lin and executive vice president of construction Ian Leong will also be present as well as the CNMI team from the Saipan and Tinian offices.

Alter City will be doing a presentation at the beginning of the public hearing.

"The content of the presentation is a summarized version of our DCRM major siting application, with additional information on the benefits the project will have for the community, as well as the future growth of tourism on Tinian," Davia said.

According to the group, they would want to "see a positive response from the community and hope to gain the community's support for the project."

Alter City is looking to develop a casino resort on 700,000 square meters of land it has leased with the government.

Aside from 6,000 rooms for hotel, villas, and serviced apartments, the Macau-based group is also looking at a casino resort complex and a global theme park as part of its master plan for Tinian.

Earlier reports from the company said the construction of rooms, water parks, an 18-hole golf course, casino facilities, and other amenities will be in three phases.

Last June, the group filed its application for a casino license. In May, they made a partial payment of $1.2 million to the government for their major siting permit.

TO SOLVE DANDAN WATER PROBLEMS:

Riegel: Leak detection repairs, tank building in the works

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Efforts are underway to solve the 'low-pressure' water service in the Dandan residential area, said acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director John Riegel.

Residents in the area have complained of low water pressure or no water service at all.

"We've focused a lot of our efforts on leak detection and repair in Dandan, and we are looking at doing a water balance in Dandan so we know pretty much our unaccounted-for water," Riegel said. "We have plans to do that islandwide but we started and are focusing on Dandan now because it's a big service area."

Riegel said most water pressure complaints come from the homestead area. He explained that the land elevation of the homestead is fairly close to that of the tank. "So if the tank is not all the way full, they…feel the low pressure," he said.

"Oftentimes, the tank will draw down because it's serving a big area and because we are not able to augment that supply from Papago," he said.

To solve this, Riegel said they are building the Papago water tank, which will hold 300,000 gallons of water and is 42 feet in diameter and 40 feet tall.

"They are just finishing the foundation preparation. So the tank erector should be here soon…I would say he should be here in August," Riegel said.

Other tanks that CUC and the CNMI Water Task Force are looking to replace are the Gualo Rai, San Vicente, and "NMC" water tanks.

Nepalese citizens urged to apply for 'protected status'

Torres encourages residents to 'control' their Internet use

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres is urging CNMI residents to monitor their use of the Internet, as repair efforts on the damaged undersea fiber optic cable owned by service provider IT&E continue.

Torres

Torres gave the advisory yesterday, acknowledging that the "past weeks have been difficult" to everyone in the CNMI. He appealed to the community to continue cooperating and participating in "productive dialog" with the CNMI government.

The Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office also released yesterday a similar advisory, urging the community to "reduce visitations of high bandwidth websites such as those with streaming" services.

The agency continues to assist IT&E in its repair efforts.

Marvin Seman, special assistant for Homeland Security, said the control of Internet usage will "aid in the repair efforts in the next week."

"I know a lot of residents have done a great job in reducing Internet usage," he said, adding that there is "still a lot of repair work" to be done.

On July 13, Torres declared a state of significant emergency on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota after a massive communications breakdown cut off the Commonwealth from the rest of the world.

Torres said the declaration was made after consultations with IT&E.

On July 8, the IT&E-owned fiber optic cable was detected to have been heavily damaged, causing the loss of mobile telephone services and Internet access throughout the Commonwealth. The outage effectively caused businesses—including banks, financial institutions, and remittance services—to grind to a halt.

In the state of emergency declaration, Torres said the "disruption of critical infrastructure services threatens the public peace, health, and safety of the Commonwealth's residents."

With the declaration, the Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office was tasked to provide assistance and support, and was granted a temporary exemption from any Commonwealth regulation "which would tend to prevent, hinder, or delay any action it deems necessary" when assisting and supporting the Commonwealth in its recovery from the infrastructure disruption.

HSEM was also tasked to establish a joint task force with IT&E to provide the government with regular updates. A complete report from the agency is expected to be submitted to the Office of the Governor on or before Aug. 31. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Woman seeks cops' help against neighbor

A woman sought police's help on Tuesday against a neighbor who has allegedly been causing her and her family some anxiety for repeatedly going inside their house uninvited.

Police arrested Joseph K. Sablan, 39, on Saipan for disturbing the peace.

Police said Sablan was also arrested last June 30 for allegedly trying to open the door of a house in Gualo Rai. He was also under investigation for allegedly trying to snatch a purse from a Chinese woman outside J's Restaurant in Gualo Rai in May.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio released Sablan on his own personal recognizance. She also quashed bench warrants for Sablan's several traffic cases and set a review hearing for Aug. 6, 2015.

Police detective Maverick M. Saures stated in his report that he and two other detectives responded Tuesday at 8:10am to a reported prowling incident at a residence. The report did not mention the house's specific location.

Sablan was arrested as he was walking away from the house.

Saures said that, according to the complainant, she was inside the house when she heard the dogs barking outside. She looked out the window to check if it's Sablan again when she heard the doorknob of the kitchen door rattling. She grabbed her keys and locked the doors. She then walked toward the front of the main door of the house and saw Sablan walking away from the house.

The complainant told police that Sablan also walked inside her house last March, and that her younger brother saw him standing in the kitchen. Sablan walked out when told to leave.

The complainant said they are scared of what Sablan might do in the future because they would hear him screaming and banging items from his residence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

» **'TPS is best for those who are out of status'**

A "temporary protected status" can give members of the Nepalese community some breathing room, particularly those working for embattled Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Attorney Maya B. Kara, of the law firm Mailman and Kara, said the "temporary protected status" is being made available for residents of countries that have been affected by ecological disasters, such as Nepal and Haiti.

"What the temporary status does is protect Nepalese citizens from being 'removed' from the CNMI," Kara said, adding that the status will also allow Nepalese citizens to apply for work authorization.

She said Nepalese citizens have been allowed to apply for protected status since June. The application period is good for six months, while the temporary protected status is good for 18 months.

Kara

Kara said Nepalese citizens should "take advantage of it, particularly those who are out of status."

She said on Tinian alone, there more than 100 Nepalese who might be in limbo.

Kara said this is also an opportunity for undocumented citizens of Nepal in the CNMI—if there are any—to apply for status.

Kara said once an application is approved, a Nepalese citizen can then apply for a CW or any other status. "The temporary protected status gives them some breathing room," Kara said.

She added that the CW status "is still better" than the "temporary protected status."

Kara's law firm is inviting members of the Nepalese community to attend a presentation on the temporary protected status for Nepalese citizens today, from 6pm to 8pm, at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. There is no charge for this presentation.

Kara said this a public service of the law firm and that similar presentations have been conducted in the past. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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Judge finds probable cause to charge taxicab driver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause yesterday to charge Amrita Lal Sarker with all five traffic offenses that resulted in serious injuries to two women and minor injuries to his four passengers in Gualo Rai last week.

During the preliminary hearing, Camacho determined that there was probable cause to charge the 40-year-old Sarker with reckless driving, failing to drive on the right half of the roadway, violating speed limits, failing to exercise due care while driving a vehicle, and failing to yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing the marked crosswalk.

Camacho ordered Sarker to answer the charges. Arraignment will be held today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Emily Cohen called to the witness stand police traffic investigator Adrian Mendiola, who basically narrated to the court the circumstances of the accident and the investigation that led to Sarker's arrest.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark served as counsel for Sarker.

Clark argued, among other things, that the area was too dark at that time and that Sarker was not driving recklessly because he was just avoiding the pedestrians and did not see the two women who were near the gate. Clark said pedestrians also have a lot of responsibilities when walking on the road in the middle of the night.

Camacho denied Sarker's motion to modify the $10,000 cash bail.

Sarker's bid to be released to a third-party custodian upon posting 10 percent of the bail was also denied. Camacho found Sarker's proposed third-party custodian, Podder Nayon, not suitable because Nayon is currently on probation for reckless driving.

The judge also declined a second proposed third-party custodian, Mohammed Ayub Ali, because Ali could not fully understand English. Camacho said a translator is needed at the hearing if Sarker wants to insist on Ali as his third-party custodian.

Sarker was allegedly speeding and had swerved to avoid hitting pedestrians who were crossing the crosswalk along Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai last Thursday night, resulting in the car mowing down two women who were standing near the gate of Eucon International University.

Li Chen, 51, one of two women, is in critical condition and was flown to Beijing, China, Tuesday night for an operation and further medical treatment.

Chen and the other woman, Zhang Hong Li, were training to become educators at Eucon, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Doro: A new place for your lechon and chicken cravings

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Doro's special deep fried chicken BBQ which is different from roasted chicken especially because of its crispy skin.
FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

With so many restaurants on island offering Filipino food, there's one area where you really have to be above everyone else: taste. And that's where the new place in town called "Doro" promises to excel.

Asked about the challenge of opening up with so many competitors, Doro owner Jun Olita said, "The food being offered are the same. You just have to be different with how they taste."

His wife, Michelle, said the idea for a small barbecue place and restaurant started with their regular family gatherings.

"Whenever we have gatherings, we'd buy roasted chickens but our families and friends got used to the taste already and wanted something different. So we thought of doing our own," Michelle said.

"We would accept orders from friends for free just so they could taste our cooking until someone told us, 'Why don't you open up your own place?' So we did," she added.

Michelle said their recipes came from their family, while the name "Doro" was inspired by her husband's late father.

"His dad really liked roasted pig [and] roasted chicken," Michelle said.

Specialties

Doro's specialties are their "deep fried chicken barbecue" and their very own *lechon* (roasted pig).

At first glance, the chicken seemed like it is roasted but there is actually a difference in the way they cook it.

According to Michelle, the whole chicken is baked and then deep-fried and basted with barbecue sauce. The result? A delicious, well-cooked chicken with a hint of sweetness and, most importantly, crispy skin—unlike the usual roasted chicken where the skin turns out soft and soggy.

Doro's roasted pig—available on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays—was freshly delivered when I visited their place. As soon as Jun chopped off a part, the mouth-watering smell of *lechon* wafted through the air. The seasonings and herbs were not overpowering, save for the trace of the fragrant lemongrass used as stuffing.

Bountiful menu

Aside from these specialties, Doro offers a bountiful menu of pork and chicken barbecues, crispy *pata*, baby back ribs, *lechon kawali*, pork and *lechon sisig*, beef *pares*, and pork chop.

They also have conveniently packed rice toppings such as *tinapa* rice, Chamorro sausage rice, *bagoong* rice, pork crispy fritters rice, *longanisa* rice, *talangka* rice, veggie rice, tapa rice, *liempo* rice, adobo rice, pork chop rice, *lechon* rice, and *siomai* garlic rice.

Doro also offers *merienda* (snack) items and desserts.

According to Michelle, they just started operating on July 8 and have managed to sell everything by the end of each day. And despite the network outage experienced during their soft opening, they were able to deliver their orders.

Doro will also have special promo on Fridays that is more of a challenge. They promise not to charge for a huge bowl of goto or lomi if the customer gets to finish the whole thing in one sitting and without any help. If not, the customer will have to pay $20 for it.

According to the owners, Doro caters more to customers who want to pick up their food and go as well as those who want them delivered. But the place also has a couple of chairs and tables for any guests who want to dine in.

Doro, located on Middle Road across the Mobil gas station in Garapan, is open from 10am to 11pm every day. For inquiries, call 233-3676.

Lechon is another specialty of Doro offered on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.
FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

BUSINESS

From Page 1

but said one automotive parts supplier incurred heavy losses due to canceled orders, or payments that have been canceled, because the company relies heavily on credit cards and online payments.

"I understand that there might be circumstances that are beyond control, but that single day really affected the CNMI," Benavente said.

Currently, service provider IT&E is working on having its submarine cable repaired.

The CNMI government has placed Saipan, Tinian, and Rota under a 30-day state of significant emergency due to the outage.

Benavente said IT&E should provide a report on how it used a government-backed loan to set up the telecommunications infrastructure in the CNMI.

And speaking of the state of emergency, Benavente said this will allow the CNMI government to demand for the report.

Benavente said the CNMI "guaranteed the loan for IT&E. In order for them to acquire that loan, the government had to step in." The loan was reportedly worth $9 million.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) earlier said the CNMI seems to have gotten nothing out of the $9-million loan that IT&E used for the submarine cable.

Benavente added the he supports the call for another service provider for the CNMI.

Guam's incumbent telecom carrier GTA earlier said is still wants to invest and expand in the CNMI.

DYNAMIC

From Page 1

quirements needed to resume flight services to Saipan," Lizama told *Saipan Tribune*.

Local airline representative Dennis Tse confirmed Dynamic's interest in flying the Hong Kong to Saipan route when contacted by phone yesterday. However, he said he could not disclose further details because he was not authorized to do so.

We "don't have a timeframe yet," he said. "We will announce through [the Marianas Visitors Authority] once we are ready."

Dynamic Airways is headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina.

With Dynamic, the CNMI could open up another route to a growing Chinese tourism market.

According to the MVA, arrivals from China jumped 14 percent in May 2015 to 15,198 visitors compared to same period last year.

REPAIR

From Page 1

they will experience in the interim until IT&E gets the cable fixed.

IT&E has not yet located the area of damage to the fiber optic line after hiring divers to inspect the line last week. Dives ceased last Wednesday.

Two weeks ago, damage to IT&E's fiber optic line caused a massive network communications outage in the CNMI.

EPA

From Page 2

managers, with two serving in the acting position almost as long as the three former managers employed.

CUC explains that it is a difficult position to recruit and fill due its specialized nature, industry demand, and the scrutiny it receives from EPA.

CUC also notes limited staffing in human resources, a high number of hiring following a hiring freeze for non-stipulated order positions, other employment matters, the implementation of salary compensation and performance systems, and the resignation of CUC's human resource manager as things that may slow down candidate processing.

Over 500 current, ex-TDHC workers add claims of fraud

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Over 500 current and former foreign workers of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino amended their lawsuit in federal court against the owner and management of Tinian Dynasty and Casino for allegedly lying to them about their immigration status by claiming they were authorized to work despite the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

The amended complaint adds a claim of constructive fraud against Tinian Dynasty's owner, Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Investments Ltd., and HKE majority shareholder Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

Four previous claims remain in the amended complaint. They are fraudulent concealment claims against HKE and Mega Stars, and negligent misrepresentation and for wrongful termination in violation of public policy against HKE.

Jose C. Cadion Jr. joined in the lawsuit, bringing the total number of named plaintiffs to 15.

The other named plaintiffs are Eric F. Dona, Donny Rivera, Melinda Rivera, Chung-Liang Chiu, Shingo Kajiwara, Shao Han, Lorenzo Pacia III, Didith Pacia, Ming Yang Yuan, Chuan Hui Xu, Flordeliza F. Camiguing, Jovelyn F. Reyes, Richard Julio L. Reyes, and Ernesto Y. Rivera. The lawsuit lists 500 unnamed co-plaintiffs. Most of the 15 named plaintiffs have U.S. citizen children.

Attorney Samuel Mok, counsel for the plaintiffs, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to preliminarily and permanently stop the defendants from terminating the plaintiffs' employment or removing their name from an administrative appeal.

Mok asked the court to stop the defendants from forcing the plaintiffs to work illegally.

The court was also asked to declare as false HKE's statement that it was legally permissible for the plaintiffs to continue working even though U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had denied their CW-1 petitions.

Mok asked the court to hold HKE and Mega Stars liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Mok stated in the complaint that HKE and Mega Stars knew at least 18 months before Dec. 8, 2014, that these employees' CW-1 employment petitions were in jeopardy of being denied by virtue of numerous written warnings issued by USCIS in the form of notices of intent to deny and intent to revoke.

However, Mok said, HKE and Mega Stars deliberately withheld this information from the workers out of fear they would stop working and transfer to new employers, which would have effectively shut down business operations and ultimately cost Tinian Dynasty a significant amount of money.

Mok said the defendants also lied to workers about their legal status by falsely claiming they were all legally authorized to work despite USCIS' denial of their CW-1 petitions.

With respect to constructive fraud claims, Mok said that HKE lied to each of the plaintiffs via a written letter dated Jan. 19, 2015, regarding the legality of returning to work even though USCIS had denied their CW-1 petitions.

In that letter, Mok said, HKE stated that it was legal for plaintiffs to report to work despite the USCIS' denial of their CW-1 petitions because an appeal had been filed before the Administrative Appeals Office of USCIS.

Mok said Mega Stars knowingly made a false representation to each of the plaintiffs via written letter dated Jan. 12, 2015, about the potential consequences of continuing to work without authorization by deliberately omitting facts that it was supposed to disclose.

In that letter, the lawyer said, Mega Stars chair Wai Chan told the plaintiffs that each of them should put their respective "fears aside" and that if they knew the "truth" they would "not be afraid to report for duty as usual."

Mok said Mega Stars told the plaintiffs that U.S. immigration laws did not provide for criminal punishment for alien workers found to have worked without authorization and that if any criminal punishment was imposed, it would be against the employer, not the employee.

Mok said that Mega Stars, however, withheld information relating to the serious immigration consequences if the plaintiffs kept working without authorization such as deportation and ineligibility for future immigration benefits such as another CW-1 or adjustment of status.

Minority lawmakers air concerns on casino's socioeconomic impact

The opening of a casino in Garapan will have socioeconomic impacts that the community should be prepared for, according to some lawmakers.

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the community should not "just see the dollar sign, but the effects of it in the CNMI."

"Will it have any impact on crimes such as theft or money laundering?" Sablan asked.

An increase in population might also be inevitable, he added, because this it what usually happens to places where a gaming industry exists.

"It is no secret that these things comes with the gaming industry. I understand it is coming, whether it happens this week or two years from now, it will happen," Sablan said. "The money will come. What comes with that money is my worry."

The lawmaker said he is hoping that the Department of Public Safety will be ready once the casino opens.

"The thing is, DPS is coming to the Legislature asking for more funding. The department needs to be up to speed as this casino industry happens," Sablan said.

He added that a casino happening "is not much of a surprise."

"I'm sure there will be some good things that comes with it, but we just have to be prepared. A lot of people are seeing the dollar sign, but I always said we have to be careful," he said.

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said he has nothing against the casino. His beef is that there are laws that do not apply to the casino and only to the community. He said this "bending of some laws" is what worries him.

He said, though, that it is happening and that what he hopes is that regulators will be ready to handle the industry. "The money we will be getting from the casino is small compared to its social impact," he said.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd., which has an exclusive license to operate a casino on Saipan, will reportedly open a "live training facility" in Garapan this month.

The casino will be a first on Saipan, but BSI has yet to give a definite date on its opening. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP15-DOF/REV-075

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2015 TIME; 10:00 A.M.

"CNMI TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION"

Copies of the Scope or Work may be obtained on or after **July 23, 2015** at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Central Office, Dandan Commercial Center, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A **pre-proposal conference** will be held on **August 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., local time** at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Dandan.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government

/s/ **LARRISA C. LARSON**
Secretary of Finance

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, July 24, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwoghos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. April 22, 2015 Special Board Meeting
   b. June 26, 2015 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Other Matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Nutrition Assistance Grant (NAG) Budget Proposal for FFY2016
2. Head Start Program Training & Technical Assistance Supplemental Grant Application for 15-16
3. Extension of Board Action No. 2014-009 (MOA for Certified Employees re Certification)
4. Revised FY 16 Spending Plan for PSS-BOE
5. BOE-PSS Comments to Senate Bill No. 19-55
6. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report No, 2015-006

VI. Executive Session[2]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other Matters

VII. Administrative Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus® credit card by 8/31/15 and, if you're approved, receive 5,000 bonus miles at account opening and 20,000 bonus miles if you spend $1,500 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus® Credit Card Agreement for more information.
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Court asked to dismiss ex-CUC staff's lawsuit

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and former CUC executive director Allan Fletcher asked the federal court yesterday to dismiss the lawsuit filed against them by terminated CUC employee Zaji O. Zajradhara.

CUC and Fletcher, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, asserted that Zajradhara's lawsuit must be dismissed because the U.S. District Court for the NMI lacks jurisdiction since Zajradhara has yet to exhaust the administrative remedies he is currently employing.

In CUC and Fletcher's motion to dismiss, Lochabay pointed out that exhaustion of administrative remedies, where available, is a jurisdictional prerequisite to filing a lawsuit against a government agency or an action against an individual.

Lochabay said Zajradhara's complaint alleges that he had filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and had received a right to sue letter.

The AAG said Zajradhara filed a second EEOC complaint that alleges many of the actions he is complaining about before the federal court.

Lochabay pointed out that this second EEOC complaint remains unresolved. In fact, the matter is still in the CUC administrative process and that no final decision has been rendered yet, he said.

In CUC's separate response to Zajradhara's lawsuit, CUC counsel James S. Sirok said the plaintiff has appealed his termination through CUC's administrative process. He confirmed that the appeal process is still pending, with no final decision yet.

Fletcher has disclosed that Zajradhara was terminated for offering to sell illegal drugs to another person while aboard a CUC vehicle.

Zajradhara claims he was subjected to a hostile work place and is suing CUC, Fletcher, and 10 others for whistleblower/wrongful termination, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and violations of the Americans with Disability Act.

In the complaint he filed without a lawyer, Zajradhara is demanding payment of damages and court costs.

He said CUC initially hired him as a trades technician/operator in October 2012, but he was moved into various positions, including warehouse man, fuel handler, and troubleshooter for the Water Division.

He said CUC terminated him on Oct. 24, 2014, on the pre-textual ground of possession and conveyance of illegal drugs. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rotary recognizes Whitts for club contributions

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

James and Debra Whitt, far right, were awarded by the Rotary Club of Saipan for their contributions to the club when James was president in 2005 to 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday.

The Rotary Club of Saipan has honored a former club official and his wife for their contributions to the organization.

The club recognized James Whitt, who served as president from year 2005 to 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan this Tuesday.

Club president Curtis Dancoe presented the award to Whitt, who is a partner of Ernst & Young and is now based in Guam.

The club also recognized Whitt's wife, "Rotary Ann" Debra, for her contributions, especially when her husband was still a Rotary officer.

Debra Whitt was the person behind Rotary's project "Parade of Books."

Tuesday's presentation was done by two-time Paul Harris awardee David Igitol and foundation director Ben Babauta.

"Now Parade of Books is still on, they only changed the name to include the high school," Igitol said.

Whitt also recognized this contribution of his wife during his term.

"When I was president '05 to '06, I believe the theme at the time had to do with literacy. I give my beautiful wife Debbie ultimate credit due to her for the ingenious idea of having young kids in our schools, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, to read a book and then portray what they had read in the form of costume and parade," Whitt said.

"It's a great success and I'm very happy that it has continued throughout the years," he added. ***(Frauleine Michelle S. Villanueva)***

Arenovski highlights LTA program at Rotary meeting

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Latte Training Academy spokesman Jim Arenovski spoke in glowing terms Tuesday of the hospitality program they offer and the many individuals who have benefited from it in past months.

Arenovski, who was guest speaker at Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday, extolled the many benefits of the academy's hospitality management training where Island Training Solutions is the islands' sole provider of the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute certification program. Arenovski is also president of Island Training Solutions.

"When we started this program, we knew that we needed to change some attitudes here towards hiring locals," he said.

"We're here to do workforce development, to get folks who may not understand much about hospitality and get them more in tune to hospitality," he added.

He pointed out that entry-level, unskilled positions for hospitality are in demand and available now on island such as chambermaid, steward, dishwasher, and waiter positions.

"We have hospitality classes on over 20 areas but we focus mainly on workforce development, which also includes front desk, guest room services and food and beverage," he said.

Through LTA, trainees could avail of better job opportunities.

"This program gives them an opportunity to start with a great foundation," he said.

According to Arenovski, even though their students are not guaranteed jobs after finishing their training, LTA encourages employers to get to know these trainees and see their skills, attitudes, and aptitude—and that when employers hire their students, they are taking better risks.

Last June, 63 high school students and graduates received the globally-recognized AHLEI certifications after completing Skills, Tasks and Results Training Program training under LTA.

The AHLEI trainings are recognized throughout the world as providing cutting-edge skills development to participants. To complete the program and get certified, students have to dedicate approximately 180 hours of reading, classroom, and shadowing sessions on top of their normal school hours.

5 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged five beaches on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Hafa Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Chalan Laulau Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce a vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Robert H. Hunter, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **August 14, 2015**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

IT&E donates $5,000 to Tournament of Champions

IT&E announced yesterday that the company has donated $5,000 in cash and prizes for the Tournament of Champions Golf Tournament, which will take place on Aug. 1 and 2, 2015.

"IT&E has been a longtime supporter of the Tournament of Champions golf tournament," said Hans Mickelson, IT&E marketing manager. "We are excited to be participating again this year for the historic celebration of the tournament's 20th year.

"IT&E's donation of cash and exciting prizes heightens the excitement of the Tournament of Champions golf tournament," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are extremely thankful for the company's continued support of the event."

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Members of the planning committee for the 2015 Tournament of Champions pose with IT&E representatives with the $5,000 check. The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

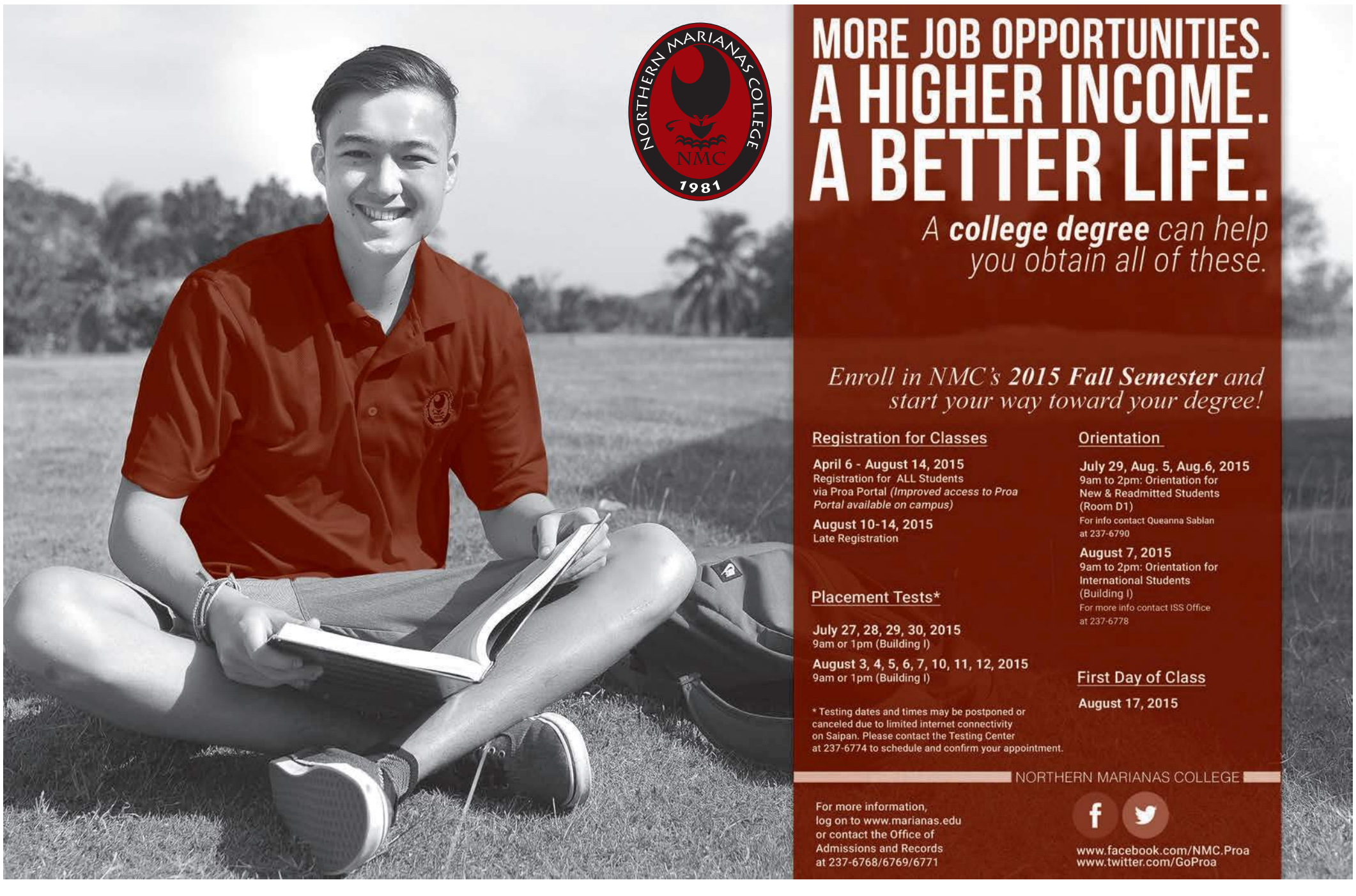
First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera for fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include brand new vehicles donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, Joeten Motors, and Triple J Motors/Club C. Pacifica Insurance, and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***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Registration for ALL Students
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Placement Tests*
July 27, 28, 29, 30, 2015
9am or 1pm (Building I)
August 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 2015
9am or 1pm (Building I)
* Testing dates and times may be postponed or canceled due to limited internet connectivity on Saipan. Please contact the Testing Center at 237-6774 to schedule and confirm your appointment.
Orientation
July 29, Aug. 5, Aug.6, 2015
9am to 2pm: Orientation for New & Readmitted Students (Room D1)
For info contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6790
August 7, 2015
9am to 2pm: Orientation for International Students (Building I)
For more info contact ISS Office at 237-6778
First Day of Class
August 17, 2015
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
For more information, log on to www.marianas.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771
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A. Samoa questions gay marriage validity in territory

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—American Samoa is the only U.S. territory to hold out against the recent Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage.

As the Pacific island's attorney general reviews the decision, legal observers and gay rights advocates are saying it should go into effect immediately.

"It should be unquestioned," said Rose Cuison Villazor, a professor at University of California, Davis' law school and an expert on territorial law. "The Supreme Court's decision was pretty strong."

But American Samoa Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale hasn't been ready to take that step.

"We're still reviewing the decision to determine its applicability to American Samoa, and I have no specific comments at this time," he said.

Asked if same-sex marriage is legal in the territory, Ale said, "I don't know. We're reviewing the law."

U.S. territories have some self-governance rights. The right to marry, however, isn't a question of self-governance, said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, staff attorney for national gay rights group Lambda Legal.

"This is a question of individual right, individual liberty," he said.

Other U.S. territories have voluntarily complied with the Supreme Court decision.

In Puerto Rico, Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla signed an executive order soon after the ruling. U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp has signed a similar executive order. In Guam, there is no effort to ignore or challenge the ruling, said territorial legislative Vice Speaker Benjamin F. Cruz, who is gay. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is also supporting the decision.

As of Thursday, no one has applied for a same-sex marriage license in American Samoa, according to the island's Office of Vital Statistics.

Christian churches with conservative social views dominate in American Samoa, home to about 50,000, and the government's motto is "Samoa, Let God Be First." Yet the territory has a tradition of embracing faafafine—males who are raised as females and take on feminine traits.

There are many faafafine who aren't supportive of gay marriage out of "respect for our Samoan culture and religious beliefs," said well-known faafafine Princess Auvaa.

The lack of marriage license applications by same-sex couples shouldn't be taken to mean no one in American Samoa desires gay marriage, said Villazor, the professor.

"I would think there are cultural barriers to begin with. The AG might present some other legal and social barriers, too," she said.

For gay marriage to be recognized in American Samoa, there needs to be a voluntary decision or litigation, said Chimene Keitner, an expert on territorial status issues at University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Litigation would require "plaintiffs who have been denied the right to marry and are willing to take a public position on that and challenge their inability to marry," she said.

Plaintiffs could also be those who were married elsewhere and want the marriage recognized in American Samoa, she said.

Auvaa said she wants gay marriage to be legal in American Samoa. If it's determined that it is, she said, "I would be the first person to apply for a marriage license—if I had a boyfriend who would agree to marriage."

Battle against destructive beetles hits hurdle

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam's coconut rhinoceros beetles have ravaged many of the territory's coconut trees.

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's war against the coconut rhinoceros beetles, which have ravaged many coconut trees, has become more challenging, an expert said.

At stake in the battle against the beetles is the survival of the remaining coconut trees on the island, which aren't just a source of food. They're also a vital part of Guam's image as a tropical island, the *Pacific Daily News* reported Sunday.

One challenge that has set back ongoing efforts to try to eradicate the coconut rhinoceros beetles is the recent discovery that the virus Oryctes nudivrus, which is being used as a biological agent to kill the beetles, isn't as effective as expected, said Aubrey Moore, an entomologist, an associate professor at the University of Guam and a leading expert on the issue.

The virus, which attacks only rhinoceros beetles, typically reduces damage caused by coconut rhinoceros beetles by up to 90 percent, and population suppression lasts indefinitely, Moore stated.

But there's a problem with the use of the virus on Guam's beetles. Guam's coconut rhinoceros beetles seemed to have developed an immunity to the virus, so the next step is to try to find a more effective biological control agent, possibly another strain of virus, Moore said.

Researchers at AgResearch, a leading research institute for New Zealand's agriculture industry, and UOG, recently have discovered that the Guam rhinoceros beetles are "genetically different" from other coconut rhinoceros beetle populations and they are resistant to all available strains of [Oryctes nudivrus, or OrNV]," Moore said.

New Zealand researcher Sean D.G. Marshall is expected to present the findings that Guam's invasive coconut rhinoceros beetles have become resistant to the virus that's meant to stop them at an international conference in Canada in August.

Another challenge that has come up in the fight against the destructive beetles: The numerous trees toppled by Typhoon Dolphin now are decaying and providing a breeding ground for the beetles.

The decaying trees provide a haven for grubs before they become adult, flying beetles that destroy coconuts. In about six months the grubs will become mature beetles, posing an even tougher challenge for Guam to keep their population under control, Moore said.

"Worst-case scenario is that we may lose most of our coconut palms due to an impending (beetle) outbreak in response to abundant breeding sites left by Typhoon Dolphin," Moore said.

In Colorado, tiny parasitic wasps from China are being deployed as part of a test to kill emerald ash borer beetles, which have killed 50 million trees in more than two dozen states, the Coloradoan reported recently.

Guam isn't considering using parasitic wasps to combat beetles, Moore said. Parasitic wasps were used in Palau to try to eradicate coconut rhinoceros beetles, but they weren't effective, Moore said.

A chemical or insecticide can be used to zap the beetles, but it's not approved for consumer use and can be costly, Guam researchers said.

Here's the UOG team of bug experts' advice:

■ Do not cut down trees believed destroyed by beetles. More than 90 percent of damaged trees will recover. Cutting trees magnifies the problem by producing decaying wood.

■ Keep all green waste and compost under appropriate netting or removed from property.

■ If you're unsure if a tree should be cut, call UOG's Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program at 735-2085.

Pacific countries, territories explore paths to transform energy systems

HONOLULU, Hawaii—In an ongoing effort to solve the region's significant energy challenges, Pacific Island countries and territories and development partners are meeting this week—July 21 to 23—in Honolulu to share experiences on increasing the use of renewable energy.

Key speakers will discuss comprehensive approaches to energy sector transformation, including the importance of enabling legal and regulatory frameworks, capacity building, and financing.

The workshop will examine a number of Pacific case studies, such as different clean energy initiatives in Hawaii.

The workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and the International Renewable Energy Agency, and is funded by the U.S. Department of State.

"Transforming Pacific island energy system is not only about putting in more renewable energy installations," the director of SPC's Economic Development Division, Capt. John Hogan, said.

It is also about creating a conducive environment to facilitate the development and generation of renewable energy.

This must go hand in hand with an innovative approach to financing and accelerating ways of utilizing emerging energy sources, Hogan said.

"The meeting this week also reaffirms the Pacific region's commitment to the 'Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific' and its vision for an energy secure Pacific," he said.

"This is a positive move by Pacific Island countries and territories to take a concerted effort to work toward achieving their renewable energy targets, as presented in the Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership," IRENA's Island Roadmaps Analyst, Emanuele Taibi, said. "This week's workshop represents an important stepping stone on the road to the Paris climate talks."

"It contributes to the objectives of small island developing states to plan and implement their energy transition, as recommended in the recently adopted Martinique Action Plan," he said.

It is anticipated that by the end of the meeting, Pacific island countries and territories will have developed a better appreciation of the need for improved country capacity to deliver and sustain renewable energy.

Even more important, island countries will have an expanded knowledge of pathways to hasten uptake of renewable energy opportunities.

"We are enthusiastically committed to working with partners in the region and with key partners like SPC and IRENA to help countries in the Pacific realize a better energy future that not only improves energy security by diversifying energy sources, but also boosts sustainable economic growth and a cleaner, healthier environment for all residents," said Tim Williamson, Deputy Director, Office of Alternative and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of State.

Roughly 80 participants plan to add the workshop, including senior representatives from Pacific Island countries and territories energy departments, power utilities, energy regulators, academia, development partners and the private sector. ***(SPC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 3-megawatt Devil's Point Wind Farm in Efate, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Deadline reminder for NCLEX-RN exam prep course

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, through the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, is sponsoring a preparatory course for the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX, for registered nurses this summer 2015.

To become a licensed nurse, candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. mainland must first pass the NCLEX. To qualify for the course, students must have already earned their associate degree in nursing. The deadline to enroll in this NCLEX-RN exam preparatory course is Friday, July 24, 2015.

The CNMI Area Health Education Center will subsidize this preparatory course for those who are CNMI legal residents (i.e., United States citizens and U.S. green card holders). Due to limited funding, subsidy will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must submit a copy of their highest nursing degree and a valid ID, passport, driver's license, or birth certificate for verification upon registration.

The preparatory course dates will run during the following days: July 26, 2015, to Aug. 30, 2015, from 1pm to 4pm at Building D-1. The preparatory course will be offered at the discounted price of $419.

To register, visit Building P, NMC Saipan; call 234-5498 Ext. 6802, 6809, 6810, 6808; and/or send an email to Orrin Pharmin at orrin.pharmin@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

USVI gets $500K for 2017 Centennial celebration

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced Tuesday $500,000 in grant assistance under the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program to the U.S. Virgin Islands Centennial Commission as it prepares to organize events and activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States on March 31, 1917.

"I am pleased to support Gov. Kenneth Mapp, [Delegate] Stacey Plaskett, the members of the Centennial Commission, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands as they plan their celebration of this significant milestone in the history of U.S.-Virgin Islands relations," said Kia'aina. "The next two years leading up to the actual Centennial Celebration presents a host of opportunities to showcase their rich history and heritage as well as the future of the Virgin Islands."

The Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commemoration will be a territory-wide, multi-year observation with events and activities beginning in 2015 through December 2017. The centennial will be marketed to local, national, and international visitors and is expected to generate short- and long-term lasting impacts on the territory's economy, stature and reputation. The commemoration will be used to build and reinforce local, state, national, and global connections.

Official events on St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John will range from parades, sporting events, concerts and multicultural celebrations to exhibitions and festivals featuring local art, dance and food. The program and activities are organized to highlight the continuum of historical events from the pre-Columbian period and indigenous inhabitants to Columbus and early European arrival, settlement of the Danish West Indies, forced migration of Africans, and the transfer to the United States, leading to the present day where the U.S. Virgin Islands are proud to be a U.S. territory and her people citizens of the United States. ***(OIA)***

POI Aviation is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the monthly closing of books, preparation of financial reports, financial forecast / budgets, doing financial analysis and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system, Peachtree and Microsoft Office software. Airline industry experience preferred. CPA license is desirable but not required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Accountant (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting; Minimum 2 years experience in accounting; Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient with the use of SAP R3 FICO system, Peachtree and Microsoft Office software. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Senior Account Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree preferred. 5-8 years of relevant job experience in the airline ground handling service industry. Knowledge/Skill Requirement. Project supervision and management. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Excellent oral and written communication skills preferably in English and Korean, or Chinese languages. Must be able to work under time pressure.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)
Diploma from technical/vocational course in automatic/diesel engines. Four (4) years experience as a GSE Mechanic. Two (2) years in leadership role within a maintenance organization. Extensive knowledge on Pneumatic and Hydraulic System maintenance. Extensive knowledge on specialized and motorized Equipment Electrical and Electronic maintenance. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license. Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)
Associate's degree in related field; Five (5) years equivalent work experience; Specific airline certification as load planner; Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations; Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a valid CNMI driver's license; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (3)
Graduate of technical/vocational course on automotive and diesel engines; Minimum 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines; Skilled in local parts fabrication; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a valid CNMI driver's license; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (1)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledge in all areas of cargo operations; Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Computer literate with good typing skills; Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment. Must be able to lift 70 pounds. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license. Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (3)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledge in all areas of ramp operations; Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Computer literate with good typing skills; Must be able to lift 70 pounds. Can operate different specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and for ramp operations. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license. Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (2)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (1)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision- making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) - Part Time (6)
Must have at least 6 months related experience. Must be able to routinely move equipment and/or items up to 70 pounds and work well under time pressure. Must be able to regularly ascend/descend stairs to service airplanes. Must be able to stand, lift, bend, push and pull for extended time. Must be willing to work outside in all types of weather and elevated noise levels within the airport environment. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Load Planning Specialist – Part Time (1)
Associate's degree; * Minimum 2 years experience in functions such as preparing aircraft loading plans, loading and offloading aircraft, operating equipment and ensuring security of cargo in flight; Previous airline and airport operations experience preferred. Strong mathematical skills-ability to formulate and evaluate correct load balance. Strong communication skills-ability to effectively and concisely communicate with station personnel. Strong decision making skills-ability to plan, implement and manage situation. Multitasking-ability to handle multiple high-stress tasks simultaneously. Ability to work for a 24/7 airline operations; days, nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)
Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering. Preferably with two years experience on Airframe and Power Plant maintenance; Have work experience on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Must be skilled in use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA and A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Has at least 2 years leadership experience in similar field of work. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (Full-Time (3) and Part-time (4))
Perform various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to aircraft to airworthy condition; AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering; Minimum 2 years experience on Airframe and Power Plant maintenance; Experience on narrow and wide body aircraft; Must possess either a current U.S. FAA A&P license, equivalent foreign license and experience; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a valid CNMI driver's license.

Applications can be obtained at the POI Aviation Building, International Terminal I.P, Saipan International Airport. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than July 27, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Marianas Enterprises Limited

is committed to manage clients' construction projects and to provide hospitality services.
We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Project Manager

Plan, direct, or coordinate, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation.

Senior Project Manager Job Duties:

- Confer with supervisory personnel, owners, contractors, or design professionals to discuss and resolve matters, such as work procedures, complaints, or construction problems.
- Plan, schedule, or coordinate construction project activities to meet deadlines.
- Prepare and submit budget estimates, progress reports, or cost tracking reports.
- Inspect or review projects to monitor compliance with building and safety codes, or other regulations. Inspect or review projects to monitor compliance with environmental regulations.
- Plan, organize, or direct activities concerned with the construction or maintenance of structures, facilities, or systems.
- Study job specifications to determine appropriate construction methods.
- Investigate damage, accidents, or delays at construction sites to ensure that proper construction procedures are being followed.
- Prepare contracts or negotiate revisions to contractual agreements with architects, consultants, clients, suppliers, or subcontractors.
- Develop or implement quality control programs.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Knowledge of materials, methods, and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, buildings, or other structures such as highways and roads.
- Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
- Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.
- Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models.
- Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
- Knowledge of scheduling tools
- Able to speak, red, and write in excellent English and Chinese

Education/Experience needed:

- College graduate and have worked in the related professional field for over 15 years. Prior experience in Saipan or Guam is preferred but not necessary,
- Should have work in the capacity as client representative, engineer, design consultant or contractor.
- An equivalent combination of education and experience. Candidate with fewer years of experience but holds a Masters degree or above will be also be considered.

$78,000 to $120,000/yearly
Salary is commensurate with experience.

Guest Relations Officer

Job Duties:

Act as an introducer to plan and coordinate the provision of friendly, efficient services to guests. Make dining and other reservations for patrons, and obtain tickets for events. Make travel arrangements for sightseeing and other tours. Receive, store, and deliver luggage and mail. Perform office duties on atemporary basis when needed. Pick up and deliver items, or run errands for guests. Arrange for the replacement of items lost by travelers. Act as interpreters or translators when patrons require such services. Perform other related duties as assigned. Perform general administration duties including but not limited to filing, meeting preparation, travel bookings, online research etc.

Qualification Requirements:

Must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Preferably have knowledge of the structure and content of the Korean or the Mandarin language preferred. Minimum two years of customer service or hospitality preferred. Position will be primarily based in our Saipan head office but may be expected to travel between head office and other locations (like Hong Kong, Beijing, Macao, Japan, etc.

$6.05 to $7.00/Hourly

Head of Human Resource

Job Duties:

Human Resource:

- Develop organization strategies by identifying and researching human resources issues;
- Implements human resources strategies by establishing department accountabilities, incl. talent acquisition, staffing, employment processing, compensation, health and welfare benefits, training and development , safety and health, employee relations and retention and labor relations
- Manages human resources operations in Beijing, HK and Saipan offices by recruiting, selecting, orienting, training ,coaching, counseling, and disciplining staff; planning, monitoring and reviewing staff job contributions; maintaining compensation.
- Complies with federal, state and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; advising managements on needed actions
- Guides management and employee actions by researching, developing, writing, and updating policies, procedures, and guidelines; communicating and enforcing organization values.

Public Relations:

- Develop PR strategies, campaigns , and initiatives to improve public perception of company
- Coordinate relations across Beijing, HK and Saipan offices
- Prepare and publish newsletter and other company literature
- Respond to information queries from media and the general public
- Develop and maintain corporate image and logos
- Maintain effective working relationships with local government and media
- Develop and launch Internet web pages

Administration:

- Manages the facilities projects
- Purchasing management,
- General affairs, incl. travel, equipment repairing and maintenance, fixed assets management and internal services
- Develop and manages budget, make expenditure analysis

Qualification Requirements
College graduate or above, MBA is preferred but not necessary
have worked in the related professional field for over 15 years

$72,000 to $100,000/yearly
Salary is commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants may send their resume to qixing.yang@imperialpacific.com.cn. For more information, please call 323-9188

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Puerto Rico's woes

The debt crisis in Puerto Rico reached a critical stage last week when a government agency signaled that it may default on a payment due Aug. 1. Pulling Puerto Rico out of its death spiral won't be easy, but it will require major changes that will cause pain all around.

Puerto Rico's debt problem is smaller in scale than the one in Greece—$72 billion, versus $355 billion for Greece—but it is every bit as grave. And given Puerto Rico's smaller population, with only 3.5 million residents, and its dire economic outlook, crafting a solution could be just as hard as it's been for Europe to come to terms with the Greeks.

When Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla announced last month that the debt is "not payable," he said the government simply owes more money, on an accelerating deadline, than it can possibly pay. Sure enough, the Puerto Rico Public Finance Corp. last week failed to give its bond trustee scheduled debt service for payments of $93.7 million due Aug. 1.

The reasons for Puerto Rico's inability to pay are multiple and complex, but the basic problem is that Puerto Rico has piled more municipal debt per capita on its residents than any American state. Years of fiscal mismanagement led up to today's impending collapse.

A 26-page report prepared by outside economic experts recently criticized the island's labor practices in both the public and private sector. It noted, for example, that Puerto Rico has 10 percent more teachers than a decade ago, but 40 percent fewer pupils. And it said that employment rules discourage hiring, pointing to a mandatory Christmas bonus for most workers and overly generous overtime and vacation rules compared with the mainland's private sector.

Those are standard practices in most of Latin America, as is the failure to pay taxes, another practice prevalent in Puerto Rico. But the island is a U.S. territory, not a Latin American country, and therein lies part of the problem. Its residents must learn that if they want the benefits bestowed by being part of the United States, they must adopt rules of fiscal and public administration more like those on the mainland. Of course, problems occur here, too—witness Detroit's bankruptcy. But because of Puerto Rico's special status, it cannot file for bankruptcy.

Already there is a move in Congress, half-heartedly endorsed by the administration, to allow Puerto Rico's municipalities and public corporations to seek protection under Chapter 9 bankruptcy. That could help the island avoid the worst consequences of the debt crisis and provide needed debt relief, but it's only a partial remedy for Puerto Rico's larger ills.

The Commonwealth model has served Puerto Rico well for decades, but it has bred a culture of dependence on the mainland that hampers the island's development.

Full statehood may be the only enduring solution that gives its people equality and establishes a framework for sustained prosperity after it emerges from crisis.

(c) 2015 Miami Herald

Is the American Dream dying?

By DIANA SROKA RICKERT
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cezar Iordan came to the U.S. from Romania when he was 20.

He didn't know anyone, and he didn't speak English. He had only $100 in his pocket. But he was determined to succeed.

Now 10 years later, Iordan runs a successful moving business called Moovers Chicago. He has a bachelor's degree, and owns a home.

"When you're forced by economic reasons to come to a different country, you (want) belonging and to find a place," said Iordan, 30. "I'm very happy with the way things have gone. I worked really hard to be where I am at."

The idea that someone can come to this country with nothing, work hard, and then start and run a successful business is what makes our country great. Even for people who aren't immigrants, the U.S. has always been a place where talent and drive is rewarded. Just think about someone like Apple's Steve Jobs.

In spite of our nation's flaws, people pursuing their dreams propel the U.S.

But what if we as a society no longer believe that anyone can achieve success? What if we have given up on the American Dream?

The findings of a new study raise those questions.

The Journal of Poverty recently reported that young adults are losing confidence in the American Dream.

About 20 years ago, researchers asked high school seniors what they thought of the national ethos. Their feelings were overwhelmingly positive. The students surveyed felt that hard work and determination would open doors no matter who their parents were or how much money they had.

Members of this age group have their entire lives ahead of them. The findings from 1996 made sense.

But the researchers came back 15 years later and asked current high school seniors similar questions. This time, their answers carried less optimism.

"Having motivation is not enough," the researchers wrote. This generation thinks opportunities are handed out to individuals, rather than created by them. "You can always work hard, but if you aren't given the opportunity ... (then) you never get the chance to get out of where you are," one student told the researchers.

The report's authors subtly make the case for government to increase funding for college. But there's a different interpretation of the study: An entire generation is giving up before adulthood has even begun.

On one hand, maybe some of these students are spoiled. This generation has more resources available to them than any other. This will be the most educated generation. Already, about 50 percent of teens have iPhones—technology that wasn't even available 15 years ago. They can't say they don't have resources at their disposal.

But can we really blame them for thinking that someone, somewhere is responsible for doling out the opportunities and determining your lot in life?

In the past few decades, we've created a society in which someone—usually government—must say "yes" before we can pursue our dreams.

In fact, the National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that 1 of every 3 U.S. workers needs government permission before they are legally allowed to work. The uphill climb doesn't just apply to people who want to start their own business; it affects people who want to work for someone else too.

Take Iordan, for example. He started his business while a full-time student in order to pay for school. He was working as a laborer on construction jobs when a co-worker mentioned that he is strong and has a van. No one likes moving, so why not offer to move people when he wasn't studying? Seemed simple, so Iordan advertised his availability online.

One day he drove to meet a customer. Instead, police with the Illinois Commerce Commission met him. He said the police asked for his license, and he thought they meant his driver's license.

"I didn't know you needed a license to be a mover," he said. "I was very surprised, because I was treated like a criminal. I did not feel like a criminal."

Iordan said he understands and appreciates why licensing is needed, and immediately obtained credentials from the state.

But this kind of challenge is faced all the time, not just by people who start businesses but also for people in everyday professions. There often are numerous regulatory hurdles to overcome and hundreds or thousands of dollars in professional fees. Licenses that take months or years to earn. Permission from government bureaucrats, industry groups or competing businesses that must be obtained.

There's no question that all these hurdles and hoops, in part, contribute to a waning faith that even the "little guy" can make it big in the 21st century.

"The American Dream is not dead," Iordan said, maintaining his optimism. "It just got a little more difficult to achieve. People have to sacrifice. The reason I got to be where I'm at is because I made a lot of sacrifices."

Personal sacrifice is tough and perhaps a fading virtue. No one ever said the American Dream is easy, or should be. But government shouldn't be the gatekeeper of success to the point of deterring an entire generation. If that happens, we all suffer.

Diana Sroka Rickert is a writer with the Illinois Policy Institute. The opinions in this essay are her own. She wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Suabe Na Kantan Chata'an

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

'An finagcha'e nubladu yan chata'an i ha'ane sigeyu' pa'gu kumanta. Hana' hassuyu' as biahu pot guiya lokue' sessu kumanta gi finatton mattiempu. Man-namahalañg siha na sunidu mafattu ginen korasoña.

Umafagcha' yan dispasiu na pineduñg uchan gi hilu' sin. Fresku i mañglu' ginen haya. Sige ha estoriayeyu' pa'gu pot antes kontodu haye siha parientela.

Mina' mampos hu agradese ayu na tiempun mame sa' guiya i nanan tatahu ya appenas ham kumonbetsasion. Motmut pinasensia, yine'ase' yan hinimidde gi mañaña siha. Sumen kariñosa pumalablra. In' sen agradese 'an sige ha estoriaye ham pot antes.

Manadan kanta yan estoria hineñgoghu ginen as biahu. Ayu chetton i mannamahalañg siha na sunidu. Sumen na maggem finu' un' humidde na biha giya hame. I sinantusan na bihan mame mafattu gi hinasoghu 'an nubladu yan chata'an i ha'ane.

Hinanau dos asagua

Sige hu arestreha finapos dos fiet na asagua haf" masusede 'nai mofona i unu para i tainekog na deskansu. Kasi pot mas anaku' dos años dispues 'nai humanau i otru. 'An soplu pues anaku' ha'aniña ennau na amku'.

Hu guadog haf" mohon na taiguine na finapos masusede dispues. I unu huli'e' klaru i mahalañg i tatatte gi pinayoña diariu na dinaña' yan fiet na asaguaña. Sessu umemahalañg ni taiguen fiet na amigaña 'sino amiguña. Estague' kasi umesgaihon dispues humanauña. Kulan i mafanana'an "love birds" ni debi usisiha todu i tiempu.

Guaha lokue' estoria pot un' biha matai asaguaña giya Roma. Maoffrese setbisiu entre para umana' hanau tatte America pat umahafot giya Roma pot asuntun gastu. Ilegña i amku' na para u kone'tatte sa' pot ha huñgog na gi uttimu biahe 'nai guaha matai guihe kahulu' ta'lu gi mina' tres dias. Dios mihu!

■■■

Napun Agostu: Sessu gi mes Agustu in' bisita tasin Lali Fo' nai manloka' i napu siha. Guiya este na tiempu 'nai sessu pagyun tasi. Esta mane'esalau manloka' lañgat gi rubentason. Mauleg sa pinatañg 'sino ha lachai ham gi ge'halom muna' fañgilulog.

Gi este na mes 'nai i inai iya Mañagaha hinala guatu Puntan Muchot. La dañkulu na patte inipos natata pot mi-unai. Adumidide' gi finapos tiempu 'nai numa'lu tatte i inai giya Mañagaha. Kasi todu fina' unai guine kulan mantinilaika hechuran niha ni metgot na trosun napu yan sakudidan risaki.

Gualu' Kalabera: Sessu in' dalalag si Ta Iku (kiñadun biahu) para i lanchoña giya Kalabera. Sige in' ayuda gi halom hatdin. Gi kasi 'la siñku ha rikohe i tiba gi 'nos kuantos troñku dispues hana' fañochu i pinegsai siha. Gi lamasan kusinan i lanchu ha kachetgue' dididi' mama' antes de biradan para i gima'. Sen ti mefnu' na sainan mame.

'Nai duru uchan guihe na pueñge ilegña na siempre manmagof i tinanom siha gi finattun Primet Agua De Abrit. Era deste Oktubre gi tiempun maipe ha tutuhon muna'gasgas gi halom hatdin. Matanom fina' a'gun yan golai siha para u finagcha'e' finattun uchan.

Apmam de i gualu' lugatña i amku' diariu. Dies años antes uttimu biahe finatoghu guihe na gualu'. Kulan mohon gagaige ha' si Ta Iku lau hagas humanau. I mames memorias gi ayu na lanchu chetton giya guahu.

Tinilaika Petmanente: Deste ke tapega papa' i fusiñus, kama', machete yan kuha gi gualu' pot cho'chu' gi administrasion i Navy gi finagpu' geran dos i uttimu biahe 'nai ta praktika i kabales na tradision natibu—fangualu'an yan tasi.

Che'chu' muchaha, ayudanten infetmera, makinistra, kusunerun, draiban truck, elektrisida yan katpenteria na offisiu siha tachule' gi papa' i NTTU. Maseha i sueddu $.16 sientimus gi ora ta usune pot mas libianu ke papa' somnag gi halom gualu'.

Guiya este na despedida tumulaika petmanente modun linala'ta. Uttimoña i fangualu'an ta bisisita gi uttimon semana gi dinaña' familia. Mas machapag relasionta yan usun tanu' natibu.

I peskan tasi para i umusune. Kontodu este na patte gi kutturata adumididi' sige maliñgu. Hasan tali'e' manhoben manpanag gi halom rubentason pot ayudu gi che'chu' familia 'sino fiesta. Kulan hinanau petmanente estake maliñgu gi minachom atdau gi kanton lañget.

Guaha siha manfitme na tradision adumididi' (kulan unai 'an mattiempu) sige maliñgu gi fina' resakin tasi. Parehu yan mappla' talin galaide' ginen i añkla. U faliñgu dispues gi hiyuñg rubentason.

Magahet na makat masustene haf" hagas gumu'ot hit na pogse' fitme gi linala' natibu? Kau este na fina' diskuidu mau'udai gi mampos hit mankonsentidot gi madestrosian tradisionta?

Adumididi' lokue' sige ha' maliñgu usun liñguahen natibu. Megai mampos tane' ni umaminanasa tradisionta na tiempu. Tatnai sisida para halom kuatton eskuela 'nai para tafananague famaguonta haf" taimanu manñgiñge' yan haf" signifikasioña.

Buente layu' bihu sentimentoghu na biahe lau atan sa' presisu na hita mismu tana' ma'ug haf" tradision natibu sin tafan masañgane propiu pinetsige pot petmanente na patte gi linala'ta. Tafan daña' munafitme tradisionta!

On the Internet, nobody knows you're joking

By CATHY YOUNG
NEWSDAY

The recent scandal around British biologist and Nobel laureate Tim Hunt, who had to resign from several posts because of alleged sexist remarks at a science journalists' conference—remarks that later reports show were almost certainly a misunderstood self-deprecating joke—has spotlighted an issue that has been the cause of growing concern: the power of the Internet mob.

Hunt's comments about his trouble with romantic attractions in the laboratory created a Twitter storm that turned the 72-year-old scientist into a misogynist caricature before he could explain himself. It's a familiar scenario by now, explored in British journalist Jon Ronson's book, *So You've Been Publicly Shamed.*

In the past few years, social media shaming has resulted in ruined careers and sometimes even lost lives. Can we do anything to curb it—and should we?

Of course, public shaming is as old as humanity. Its sting was reduced by the relative anonymity of urban and suburban living that has replaced the tightly knit community of small towns and villages. But the Internet's global village has brought back the community's power to shame and ostracize, now multiplied on a much vaster scale. At least the gossips in a traditional village knew the person they were shaming and were perhaps less likely to blow one act or comment out of proportion. The social media accusers usually know nothing about their target except for the offense.

Perhaps the most egregious example cited by Ronson is that of public relations executive Justine Sacco, whose life was wrecked by a thoughtless tweet sent out before a flight to South Africa: "Going to Africa. Hope I don't get AIDS. Just kidding. I'm white!" Sacco meant to ridicule what she saw as the cultural arrogance of white Americans; but some didn't get the joke, and by the time she landed, she was the most hated woman on the Internet. The uproar cost Sacco her job and essentially forced her into hiding.

Internet shaming has its defenders. In a Salon.com piece, left-wing commentator Arthur Chu argues that it played a key role in the legalization of same-sex marriage, making people reluctant to support same-sex marriage bans for fear of being "called out" as bigots. Chu notes that such bans passed in numerous states from 2003 to 2008, and argues that the tide turned after donors to the Proposition 8 campaign in California were identified online—exposing them to embarrassment and sometimes career damage.

But that's a dubious argument. The opinion shift in favor of same-sex marriage had been happening for some time. Indeed, many advocates of same-sex marriage were critical of such incidents as the firing of Mozilla chief executive Brendan Eich, who donated to Proposition 8. When a same-sex marriage supporter posted a video of himself berating a polite employee at Chick-fil-A for the company's opposition to same-sex marriage, it only gained the chain more sympathy.

The destructive power of social media shaming was illustrated in May when Israeli civil servant Ariel Ronis committed suicide after a Facebook post accusing him of racism toward a black Israeli woman waiting for a passport—a charge he disputed—was shared by thousands.

Given the paramount value we place on freedom of speech, it would be neither possible nor desirable to curb social media shaming—other than to urge people to behave responsibly and verify the information they share. Journalists who amplify dubious charges should face professional consequences. As for others, one possible solution is to shame the shamers, exposing those who recklessly pass on unreliable information or gang up on people for trivial reasons.

The best answer to free speech is more speech.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason *magazine, Real Clear Politics and* Newsday*, for whom she wrote this piece.*

Why Scalia's a bad influence

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Justice Antonin Scalia is setting a terrible example for young lawyers. Ignore, for now, his jurisprudence, his famously strict originalism; it's his tone that's the problem.

I have taught argumentation for many years, first as an instructor to high school and college debaters, currently as a law professor. Throughout my career I have always cautioned students away from nastiness as a crutch for those who cannot win using reason or legal precedent. I have told them to stick to persuasion and to dissecting the opposition's logical fallacies.

But lately my students have been turning in legal briefs laced with derision and ad hominem barbs. For this trend, I largely blame Scalia. My students read his work, find it amusing and imitate his truculent style.

Scalia has long relied on ridicule. In past years he has dismissed his colleagues' decisions as "nothing short of ludicrous" and "beyond absurd," "entirely irrational" and not "pass(ing) the most gullible scrutiny." He has called them "preposterous" and "so unsupported in reason and so absurd in application (as) unlikely to survive."

Scalia's opinions this term, however, were especially nasty, sarcastic and personal.

Consider several examples. In his dissent in Obergefell v. Hodges, which declared unconstitutional state laws prohibiting same-sex marriage, Scalia said that Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's majority opinion was "as pretentious as its content is egotistic" and that its "showy profundities are often profoundly incoherent."

In a footnote he wrote, "If, even as the price to be paid for a fifth vote, I ever joined an opinion for the court that began: 'The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity,' I would hide my head in a bag." He likened the majority opinion to "mystical aphorisms of the fortune cookie."

Such mockery does not amount to a legal argument; it's nothing more than an attack on the author's writing technique. A litigator who compared an opponent's brief to a fortune cookie likely would be, and should be, sanctioned by the court.

In Glossip v. Gross, which upheld the three-drug protocol used in lethal injection, Justice Stephen G. Breyer urged the court to solicit arguments on the death penalty—specifically whether it's a cruel and unusual punishment and thus in violation of the 8th Amendment.

Scalia wrote a scathing response. He referred to Breyer's opinion as "gobbledy-gook" and said his argument was "nonsense." He concluded by stating, "Justice Breyer does not just reject the death penalty, he rejects the Enlightenment."

What did Breyer do to deserve this treatment? He was hardly the first member of the Supreme Court to question the death penalty's constitutionality. Fellow doubters include Justices William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

I do not mean to suggest that Scalia is the first or only member of the court to use invective. Nor do I deny that some find such language entertaining or delightfully funny. But Scalia's browbeating is childish, even vain; like a harshly negative book critic, he revels in his own turns of phrase. And his attitude, just like his legal theory, affects the profession as a whole.

Scalia's spiteful recent dissents probably reflect frustration; after all, he was on the losing side of several major cases. Still, that's no excuse for lashing out. Nor should either liberals or conservatives dismiss such behavior as just "Scalia being Scalia."

If legal professionals ignore Scalia's meanness or—worse—pass around his insults at cocktail parties like Wildean witticisms, they'll encourage a new generation of peevish, callous scoffers.

Erwin Chemerinsky is dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English-anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Christian Church
Worship Service:
Sunday - 9:00am - 11:00am
Prayer Meeting:
Friday 8:00pm - 9:30pm
Cell Groups
Weeknights 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 12, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Time will tell if Apple Watch catches on, as Apple fans wait

NEW YORK (AP)—For all those who hailed the iPhone as the "Jesus Phone" in 2007, the Apple Watch's arrival has hardly been the second coming.

Sure, it can do many useful, even delightful things, such as showing us incoming texts and email, tracking our heart rate during exercise or letting us send digital doodles to friends. But is that enough to spend $350 or more, especially when it requires wearing a watch again? After all, smartphones have negated the need for watches to tell time.

Early Apple Watch owners seem generally happy with it, but Apple's bigger worry should be those on the sidelines—even hardcore Apple fans, not to mention the rest of us—who are waiting to take the plunge. Apple hasn't released sales figures, but its quarterly financial report Tuesday suggests that they were lower than many Wall Street analysts expected, even though they exceeded Apple's internal projections.

Some people are waiting for early kinks to be worked out and others, for an "aha moment."

"It's been cast as a want, not a need," said Matt Quick, a Topeka, Kansas, engineer and Apple fan who is holding off on getting one. "I'm kind of waiting to see what next year's model will bring."

Patrick Clayton, who has had Mac computers all his life and owns an iPhone and several iPads, returned his Apple Watch after three weeks. The last straw? It nagged the physically active New Yorker to stand up during a six-hour flight.

"Apple is famous for telling us what we need before we need them," Clayton said. "I thought this would be the case with the watch. But it (just) added something to my life that I didn't need added."

AP

In this April 10, 2015, file photo, a customer tries on an Apple Watch at an Apple Store in Hong Kong.

That's not to say the Apple Watch is a bomb. Most analysts and tech reviewers, including The Associated Press, see promise, especially compared with rival smartwatches from Samsung and others. Wristly, a research company created to study the watch, found that early buyers are overwhelmingly satisfied, more so than with the original iPad and iPhone.

And of the more than a dozen early Apple Watch owners interviewed by the AP by phone, email or in person, most of them love their watch. After all, early adopters of new technologies tend to understand that what they're getting isn't perfect.

"I'd recommend it to people with an open mind," said Dennis Falkenstein of Danville, California. He said the watch gets him "everything I want" such as local temperature, or the current time in Japan, where many of his business clients are.

But even so, there's a long wish list, including smarter apps. Apple is already addressing some of this with a software update this fall. Falkenstein would also like to see the battery life improve from the 18 hours that's currently promised.

On Tuesday, Apple reported $2.6 billion in revenue from "other products," which includes the watch. That's about $952 million more than the previous quarter, when the watch had not yet gone on sale. Analysts surveyed by FactSet were expecting $1.8 billion in watch sales.

Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri told The Associated Press that revenue from the watch amounted to "well over" that $952 million increase, as the category includes products whose sales fell. Maestri said the watch did better than iPhones and iPads in a comparable period after those products launched.

CEO of Japan's Toshiba resigns over doctored books

TOKYO (AP)—Toshiba's CEO and eight other executives resigned Tuesday to take responsibility for doctored books that inflated profits at the Japanese technology manufacturer by 152 billion yen ($1.2 billion) over several years.

Toshiba Corp. acknowledged a systematic cover-up, which began in 2008. Various parts of the Japanese company's sprawling business including computer chips and personal computers were struggling financially, but top managers set unrealistic earnings targets under the banner of "challenge," and subordinates faked results.

On top of its struggles in electronics, Tokyo-based Toshiba's prospects in nuclear power, one of its core businesses, were shaken after the 2011 Fukushima disaster set off public fears about reactor safety, making new nuclear plants unlikely in Japan. All 48 of the nation's working reactors are now offline.

Bowing deeply before flashing cameras at a news conference, CEO Hisao Tanaka kept his head lowered for nearly half a minute in a gesture meant to convey deep shame and contrition. Tanaka's predecessors, Norio Sasaki, now a vice chairman, and Atsutoshi Nishida, an adviser, also gave up their posts along with six other executives.

"We have a serious responsibility," Tanaka told reporters. The company will need to "build a new structure" to reform itself, he said.

The company said that the fraud continued through the fiscal year that ended in March, and work on revising the accounts to show the complete and true financial picture is not yet finished. It promised an emergency stockholder meeting for September, where it plans to deliver a genuine financial report.

AP

Toshiba Corp. CEO Hisao Tanaka bows during a press conference to announce his resignation at the company's headquarters in Tokyo, Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Feds say ID protector LifeLock violated $12M settlement

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. government says identity theft protection company LifeLock spent years violating a $12 million settlement for misrepresenting the protection it provides for customers.

Four years after LifeLock paid the eight-figure settlement related to false claims in its advertising, the Federal Trade Commission said LifeLock still had not set up a comprehensive program to protect sensitive data like credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and bank account numbers.

The agency also said that LifeLock didn't keep records it had agreed to maintain and falsely advertised that consumers' data received the same level of protection as financial institutions get and that consumers would be alerted as soon as the company discovered a potential problem. The FTC asked a court to find LifeLock in contempt and to order LifeLock to provide redress to consumers.

LifeLock said the FTC's actions and statements are related to past business practices and that it is prepared to defend itself in court. The Tempe, Arizona-based company said it has been cooperating and talking to the agency for a year and a half.

The FTC said LifeLock violated parts of the order as recently as December 2014 by telling consumers they would be notified as soon as the company became aware of a possible problem. LifeLock's website now says consumers can get alerts by email, text or phone but does not specify a time frame for the alerts. It said the fastest alerts require a current email address and that phone alerts are only available during business hours.

Shares of LifeLock Inc. tumbled 49 percent to finish at $8.15 on Tuesday. During the session the shares fell to $7.70, their lowest price since December 2012.

Company co-founder and CEO Todd Davis used to put his own social security number on business cards and company trucks to advertise LifeLock's services, and the company has seen its revenue climb as companies and government institutions continued to report data breaches.

The company's standard plan costs $9.99 a month plus sales tax, and LifeLock says its features include surveillance of black market sites, verification of address changes, live member support. Its top plan costs $29.99 a month. According to LifeLock's website, that plan offers notification of data breaches, monitoring of fictitious identities, alerts of credit inquiries and scanning of court records.

Greece's Tsipras stays popular despite bailout hardship

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Under Alexis Tsipras, Greece slid back into recession, sank deeper into debt and found itself pushed to the brink of bankruptcy. Then after rejecting one painful bailout deal, the radical left leader agreed to a new one with possibly just as harsh terms.

It wouldn't be surprising to find Greeks calling for his head by now. But the telegenic prime minister is more popular than ever—testament to how his defiance of Europe has struck a chord with a nation fed up with sacrifices imposed from outside.

The 40-year-old has an approval rating of nearly 60 percent, more than 10 points clear of his closest rival—leading to speculation about a possible snap election in the fall. A weekend opinion poll suggested his hard-left Syriza party would win a landslide victory if elections were held today.

Many Greeks like Tsipras' message of hope—even if his actions may be leading to a harder life.

"People are under tremendous pressure," said Aleka Tani, who sells robes to Greek Orthodox priests, "and they need to hear something positive."

Tsipras' Syriza party was elected in January on a promise to end austerity, forming a coalition with the right-wing, anti-bailout Independent Greeks party—a move that broadened his political influence. As Greece's economy tanked under his leadership, Tsipras' own popularity only grew. And that appeal has not faded despite caving into demands for more austerity last week in exchange for a bailout that kept Greece within the eurozone.

The U-turn at the eurozone summit in Brussels was in many ways baffling. For it came after Tsipras pleaded with Greeks to reject European creditors' original bailout proposal, in a referendum called by the prime minister himself. Days after a resounding "No" vote on more austerity, Tsipras agreed to a pact that will bring more brutal austerity for years to come.

That might have been political suicide for any other leader.

But Tsipras appears to have won Greek hearts with his tough talk against Europe—and a frank admission in parliament that he had accepted tough terms after making mistakes.

Defending the deal, Tsipras also argued that he had not walked away from the eurozone summit empty-handed. His long-standing demand for some way to ease Greece's whopping 320 billion euro ($347 billion) national debt is now under discussion by Europe's policymakers.

On Wednesday, the Greek government has further measures to pass through lawmakers, including reforms to the banking sector. Once cleared, then negotiations with creditors over the third bailout should commence, government spokeswoman Olga Gerovasili said. She added that the hope is that discussions should be concluded by August 20, when Greece has to pay European Central Bank a little more than 3 billion euros.

Elias Nikolakopoulos, a leading Greek pollster, said that although it is still early to accurately gauge the depth of Tsipras' popularity, his resilience may be partly due to Greeks seeing him fighting in their corner, doing what he can whether good or bad.

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Nation

Lawyer: Tennessee shooter's uncle detained in Jordan

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—An uncle of the man who killed four Marines and a sailor in Tennessee has been in custody in Jordan since a day after the attacks on two military sites, a lawyer said Tuesday.

Abed al-Kader Ahmad al-Khateeb told The Associated Press that he was barred from seeing his client and that family members were also prevented from visiting the detainee. Computers and cellphones were taken from the man's home, but he has not been charged with anything, the attorney said.

Al-Khateeb identified his client as Asaad Ibrahim Asaad Haj Ali, a maternal uncle of the Chattanooga attacker, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez.

A Jordanian official said Tuesday that he is sure the uncle and "other relevant people" in Jordan were being questioned, but he would not elaborate and or confirm that the uncle was detained. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case with the media.

Abdulazeez spent several months in Jordan last year under a mutual agreement with his parents to help him get away from drugs, alcohol and a group of friends they considered to be a bad influence, according to a person close to his family. That person also spoke on condition of anonymity, out of concern it would have business repercussions.

Relatives turned to Jordan after their health insurer refused to approve an in-patient treatment program for Abdulazeez's addictions to drug and alcohol, the person said.

An FBI spokesman has declined to comment on that information.

Jordan is one of the most Westernized countries in the Middle East, with alcohol sold openly. However, the kingdom has also seen the spread of Islamic militant ideas in recent years, especially following the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011.

Abdulazeez stayed with the uncle in Jordan, but only to help him with his small cellphone business, the attorney said. Neither Abdulazeez nor his uncle was religious or belonged to any sort of political organization, al-Khateeb said.

"The uncle is a regular person, he has a company, he is a businessman, he has no relation with any militant group or organization," al-Khateeb said. "He cares about his work and his family, and Muhammad is just his relative, the son of his sister. That's it."

AP

Abed al-Kader Ahmad al-Khateeb, a lawyer of Asaad Ibrahim Asaad Haj Ali, an uncle of the Chattanooga attacker, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, goes over paper during an interview with The Associated Press in Amman, Jordan, Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Video shows how traffic stop escalated into confrontation

HEMPSTEAD, Texas (AP)—A police dashboard video released Tuesday shows that a Texas state trooper tried to pull a black motorist out of her car, then drew his stun gun and threatened her after she refused to follow his orders during a traffic stop.

The roadside encounter swiftly escalated into a shouting confrontation as the officer attempted to drag 28-year-old Sandra Bland from her vehicle, with the officer at one point saying, "I will light you up," as he held the stun gun.

Days later, Bland was found dead in a jail cell in a case that has caused her family and supporters to dispute that she hanged herself with a plastic garbage bag, as authorities have said.

The video posted by the Texas Department of Public Safety shows the trooper stopping Bland for failure to signal a lane change. After he hands her a written warning, the trooper remarks that Bland seems irritated. The Illinois woman replies that she is irritated because she had changed lanes to make way for the trooper's car.

The conversation quickly turns hostile when the officer asks Bland to put out her cigarette and she asks why she can't smoke in her own car. The trooper then orders Bland to get out of the vehicle. She refuses, and he tells her she is under arrest.

AP

In this July 10, 2015, frame from dashcam video provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety, trooper Brian Encinia reaches into the car to arrest Sandra Bland after she became combative during a routine traffic stop in Waller County, Texas.

Further refusals to get out bring a threat from the trooper to drag her out. He then pulls out a stun gun and makes the threat about lighting Bland up.

When she finally steps out of the vehicle, the trooper orders her to the side of the road. There, the confrontation continues off-camera but is still audible. The two keep yelling at each other as the officer tries to put Bland in handcuffs and waits for other troopers to arrive.

Out of the camera's view, Bland goes on protesting her arrest, repeatedly using expletives and calling the officer a "pussy." She screams that he's about to break her wrists and complains that he knocked her head into the ground.

Her death comes after nearly a year of heightened national scrutiny of police and their dealings with black suspects, especially those who have been killed by officers.

The case has resonated on social media, with posts questioning the official account and featuring the hashtags (hash) JusticeForSandy and (hash) WhatHappenedToSandyBland. Others referred to (hash) SandySpeaks, the hashtag Bland used in monologues she posted on Facebook in which she talked about police brutality and said she had a calling from God to speak out against racism and injustice.

Disavowed by GOP leaders, Trump has supporters cheering

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—The Republican establishment may hope this is the beginning of the end for Donald Trump's circus-like run for the presidency.

But as the fallout intensifies after the billionaire businessman mocked Sen. John McCain's war hero status, Trump's supporters are more excited than ever about his chances.

"I love to see them jump all over him `cause they're just giving him a clear road. I love it!" said Trump supporter Frank Candelieri, 89, from Merrimack, N.H., of the backlash his candidate faced in recent days.

Candelieri, a World War II vet who said he won a Purple Heart fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, said he wasn't offended by Trump's comments.

On Saturday, the reality television star dismissed McCain's reputation as a war hero because he was captured in Vietnam, saying he liked "people who weren't captured." McCain, the 2008 GOP presidential nominee, spent more than five years as a prisoner of war, enduring torture and refusing release ahead of fellow captives.

The remark has sparked an avalanche of criticism as veterans groups and many Republican officials defended McCain.

On Monday night, the Des Moines Register, the largest newspaper in early-voting Iowa, published an editorial calling on Trump to drop out of the race under the headline, "Trump should pull the plug on his bloviating side show."

"Trump has proven himself not only unfit to hold office, but unfit to stand on the same stage as his Republican opponents," the paper said.

Trump responded with a statement calling the editorial "sophomoric," and accusing the paper of unfair treatment of his campaign.

The response from different Republican corners highlights discord within the GOP as the party grapples with a massive primary field.

And the intraparty bickering and bitterness is seeming increasingly palpable.

"Don't be a jackass," Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of Trump's GOP presidential rivals, exhorted in an appearance Tuesday on "CBS This Morning."

"Run for president," the South Carolinian said of Trump. "But don't be the world's biggest jackass."

Republican leaders and other 2016 candidates have been frustrated by Trump's brash campaign, which has often overshadowed their own in recent weeks. But many Trump backers in early-voting states argue the exchange is being overblown by the media and his opponents, who fear his sudden rise in early polls. Even many non-Trump supporters doubted the latest controversy would hurt his appeal among a slice of the electorate that is deeply frustrated with the Washington establishment and finds his unvarnished persona refreshing.

ACROSS THE NATION

Court overturns some Blagojevich Senate-seat convictions

CHICAGO (AP)—A federal appeals court Tuesday overturned some of the most sensational convictions that sent former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich off to a lengthy stint in prison, ruling that the Democrat did not break the law when he sought to secure a Cabinet position in President Barack Obama's administration in exchange for appointing an Obama adviser to the president's former U.S. Senate seat. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago also ordered the resentencing of Blagojevich, offering the 58-year-old a ray of hope that he could end up serving less than his original 14-year term. He has served more than three years so far. The three appellate judges dismissed five of 15 corruption counts Blagojevich was convicted of. But the panelists also suggested the original sentence wasn't necessarily extreme, even when factoring in the newly tossed convictions.

Theater shooter may not be executed even if sentenced to die

DENVER (AP)—The time has come for jurors to hear whether James Holmes should be executed for killing 12 people in a Colorado movie theater. But even if they choose death, Holmes could spend the rest of his life in prison awaiting capital punishment that never happens. Colorado has executed only one person in nearly half a century, and just three people sit on the state's death row. The man closest to seeing his death sentence carried out was granted an indefinite reprieve in 2013 by the state's Democratic governor, who said he had doubts about the fairness of the state's death penalty system. "Capital punishment is on life support in Colorado," Denver attorney Craig Silverman said.

Man accused of killing 5 was to be charged with 2014 death

MODESTO, Calif. (AP)—A Central California man suspected of killing his mother, a woman and the baby daughter they had together, and two other children last weekend was about to be charged with killing another of the woman's children last year—a 2-year-old boy who suffered head injuries. Martin "Marty" Martinez had been under investigation since the Oct. 2 death of a toddler whose mother, Dr. Amanda Crews, was among the victims found Saturday afternoon in the Modesto home Martinez used to share with her. Authorities have not determined a motive or released how the five died, including Martinez's and Crews' 6-month-old daughter, her 6-year-old daughter from another relationship and an unidentified 5-year-old.

Asia

Japan annual defense paper shows heightened worry over China

TOKYO (AP)—Japan emphasized China as a threat in escalating regional tensions in this year's annual defense report as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government tries to convince the public of the need to pass legislation to give Japan's military a greater role.

The report, approved Tuesday by the Cabinet, was delayed for more than a week as Abe's ruling party panel demanded mention of additional examples of China's "one-sided" maritime activities, such as undersea gas and oil development in the East China Sea.

Abe's ruling coalition has been pushing to pass highly contentious legislation allowing Japan's Self-Defense Force to fight for foreign militaries even when it is not under attack, while expanding its role in international peacekeeping.

Many Japanese are wary of expanding the military because of bitter memories of Japan's World War II defeat. Opposition lawmakers have said Abe's party might be exaggerating the threats to drum up support for unpopular legislation that many experts have also called unconstitutional.

The 429-page white paper underscored that Japan's security risk had worsened overall and cited continuing missile and nuclear threats from North Korea and terrorist threats from the Islamic State group as examples.

China by far topped Japan's list of security concerns, taking up one-third of a chapter on global security trends covering eight countries and regions.

"China, particularly over conflicting maritime issues, continues to act in an assertive manner, including coercive attempts to change the status quo, and is poised to fulfill its unilateral demands high-handedly without compromise," the report said. "Japan is strongly concerned about China's actions, which we need to keep watching closely."

The report also raised concerns over China's recent reclamation work in the South China Sea, saying it had escalated regional tensions. The Defense Ministry report also added a new section that also refers to maritime activities elsewhere.

China has been building artificial islands in the vast, resource-rich area, alarming neighboring nations. Japan has increased defense cooperation with the Philippines and has conducted joint exercises in the area. Defense Minister Gen Nakatani has suggested that Japan could send reconnaissance aircraft to the region if the legislation is approved, though he denied any specific plans.

AP
In this Oct. 26, 2014 file photo, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, right, walks by a mock-up of the F-35 fighter jet during the annual Self-Defense Forces Commencement of Air Review at Hyakuri Air Base, north of Tokyo.

The report called secure maritime transport crucial to the nation's survival.

China's repeated incursions into territorial waters around the disputed East China Sea islands have become routine, with larger vessels now being mobilized, the report said. The uninhabited islands are controlled by Japan and also claimed by Beijing, the report said.

Responding to demands by the national security panel of Abe's party, the report takes special note to China's undersea oil and gas drilling and surveying in the regional seas. In disputed waters of the East China Sea, China has been building new offshore platforms and other facilities on the Chinese side of the median line since June 2013, causing repeated protests from Japan over china's "unilateral" development, the report said.

The segment was printed on a separate slip as an insertion, a process that held up the report's release for about 10 days.

Bare-handed shark wrestler: 'I haven't got a scratch on me'

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

Fanning

Mick Fanning sat up on a high stool, straight backed and good humored, recounting the story he will be telling for the rest of his days, about how he fought off a shark with his bare hands during a surfing competition in South Africa.

It sounds like the plot of a movie, but this three-time world champion is no fictional Crocodile Dundee-style Aussie. He's the real thing: his shark-wrestling exploits were broadcast live.

The 34-year-old Fanning arrived back in Australia on Tuesday and appeared at a news conference in Sydney before heading home to the Gold Coast, the burgeoning city surrounding Surfers Paradise beach.

"It was so close. I'm doing OK, though," he said. "I haven't got a scratch on me. Just more of an emotional, mental sort of trauma right now.

"To walk away from a shark attack with not a scratch on you—it is a miracle really."

Fanning was competing against fellow Aussie Julian Wilson in the final of the JBay Open, the World Surf League event at Jeffreys Bay on South Africa's east coast, when he was bumped off his board by a shark.

In video of the event posted on the World Surf League website, Fanning could be seen scanning the water before a big fin emerged behind him. He turned to deal with the shark, and then lost his board as a wave rolled in and he disappeared from view.

Wilson was paddling toward Fanning and later said that he believed if he could get there with his board, he'd at least have a weapon to distract the shark, which he estimated was at least twice the size of his mate and childhood hero.

Fanning said at first he tried to swim away but then decided to defend himself, and turned to punch the shark in the back. He was next seen furiously swimming toward a personal watercraft, where he was helped out of the water and back to shore.

Coal plant proposed for pristine Thai coast sparks outcry

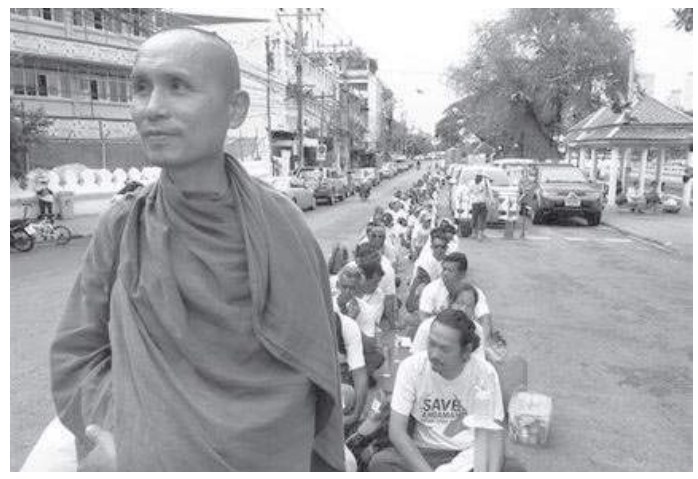
BANGKOK (AP)—Plans to build an 800-megawatt coal power plant near some of Thailand's most popular beaches have sparked protests and a hunger strike by activists who say officials aren't considering its impact on the pristine environment that makes the area an international tourist destination.

More than 100 members of the Save Andaman from Coal Network this week staged a march and sit-in outside the prime minister's office in the nation's capital against plans to build the plant near southern Thailand's Andaman coast about 650 kilometers (400 miles) south of Bangkok.

The tranquil Krabi province and its islands are famed for picturesque limestone cliffs and white sand beaches, one of which was the centerpiece of the Leonardo DiCaprio film "The Beach."

"If this power plant happens, southern Thailand will lose a lot," said Krabi resident Akradej Chakjinda, who has fasted since July 10 in protest.

Protesters say the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, or EGAT, is pushing ahead with a bidding process for the plant and a seaport that would receive overseas shipments of coal before an environmental impact assessment has been completed. Plans to launch the bidding process were delayed until next month, which EGAT says is unrelated to the ongoing protests



AP
In this Monday July 20, 2015 photo, Dadodin Patavatto a Buddhist monk, leads a silent march to the Prime Minister's office in Bangkok to demonstrate against a proposed coal power plant in southern Thailand.

The coal plant is part of a critical energy infrastructure that will provide Thailand with energy security as natural gas reserves in the Gulf of Thailand dry up within 10 years, EGAT says.

The state power authority has said it envisions building nine coal power plants in the south over the next two decades.

It had planned to begin the bidding process on this one in advance of the environmental review to save time, a government official said.

"I want to emphasize that this is totally legal and we will not sign any contract with the constructor who wins the bid process until we pass" the environmental assessment, Anuchart Palakawong Na Autthaya, head of environmental management for the project, told The Nation newspaper Monday.

Krabi remains Thailand's second-largest area of sea grass beds, which provide a feeding ground for the near extinct dugongs, a manatee-like marine mammal. It is also one of Thailand's major tourist draws. Tourism to the provinces along the Andaman coast generated more than 376 billion baht ($11 billion) in 2014, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Krabi and some of the islands off its coast are known as Thailand's most beautiful beaches, including Koh Phi Phi, which rose to international prominence after being featured in DiCaprio's film.

The Save Andaman from Coal Network, a loose collaboration of environmental, agricultural, tourist and other groups from southern provinces, began demonstrations July 10 but say their demands—which include a 3-year waiting period to see if the province can produce 100 percent renewable energy—have been ignored.

N. Korea: No interest in something like Iranian nuclear deal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Tuesday that it's not interested in an Iran-type nuclear disarmament deal, saying it won't abandon its atomic weapons as long as the United States maintains hostile policies toward the country.

The North's nuclear deterrent is "not a plaything to be put on the negotiating table," an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. It was the country's first official response to the Iran nuclear accord reached earlier this month.

North Korea's nuclear program is a major regional concern, with the country having conducted atomic weapons tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013. International nuclear disarmament talks have been stalled since early 2009, and outside analysts believe the North has built a small but growing nuclear bomb arsenal.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said North Korea is different from Iran because it already has nuclear weapons. He said the North faces constant military and nuclear threats from the U.S., citing its regular military exercises with South Korea.

North Korea "is not interested at all in the dialogue to discuss the issue of making it freeze or dismantle its nukes unilaterally first," he said, adding that the North "remains unchanged in the mission of its nuclear force as long as the U.S. continues pursuing its hostile policy toward" the country.

The U.S. stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea as deterrence against potential aggression from North Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Under the Iranian nuclear deal reached by Tehran, Washington and others, Iran's nuclear program will be curbed for a decade in exchange for potentially hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of relief from international sanctions. Many key penalties on the Iranian economy, such as those related to the energy and financial sectors, could be lifted by the end of the year.

World

After escape, Mexico cartel boss faces altered drug business

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's most powerful drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, has a lot to catch up on as he returns to a drug-trafficking landscape that has shifted considerably during his 17 months behind bars.

Rival cartels have been vanquished, and infighting among factions in Guzman's own Sinaloa gang has killed dozens in the resort area of La Paz and Los Cabos on the Baja peninsula. A new and rapidly strengthening international cartel is waging a fierce battle against soldiers and police in western Mexico, even using a rocket-propelled grenade to force down a helicopter—a style at odds with Guzman's more corporate-like Sinaloa.

Other Mexican or Colombian cartels working with street gangs in Central America may have stolen some of Guzman's transit routes.

AP

In this July 16, 2015 file photo, a Federal Police shows a reward notice for information leading to the capture of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who made his escape from the Altiplano maximum security prison via an underground tunnel, in Almoloya, west of Mexico City.

In the quiet since Guzman broke out of Mexico's top-maximum security prison a little more than a week ago, dropping into a hole in his shower floor and fleeing on a motorbike through a mile-long tunnel, friends and foes alike waiting to see what he'll do next.

"I think he's going to want to regain the control that he lost," said Jack Riley, the Drug Enforcement Administration's top agent, who has spent years tracking Guzman. "I think that's one of the reasons that I don't think he'd leave the country."

Internal DEA documents obtained by The Associated Press show that while Guzman was locked up, the Sinaloa Cartel was controlled by Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada Garcia and Rafael Caro Quintero, two of the most traditional, old-school capos, plus the newer Damaso Lopez Nunez and Guzman's son, Ivan Archivaldo Guzman.

Even while behind bars, Guzman was thought to be giving directions to his son and other cartel members "via the attorneys who visited Guzman-Loera in prison and possibly through the use of a cellphone provided ... by corrupt prison guards," the documents say.

How much the Sinaloa cartel's operations have changed depends on how involved Guzman was from prison. The complexity and success of his escape suggests he still had major input, if not day-to-day control, experts say.

But he is operating in a new dynamic, as the Mexican government has taken out the leaders of other major cartels as well. Since Guzman's February 2014 arrest, authorities have arrested Hector Beltran Leyva, head of the cartel bearing his name, as well as the Juarez Cartel's Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, Knights Templar's Servando "La Tuta" Gomez, and the Zetas' Omar Trevino Morales. Knights Templar leader Nazario Moreno died in a shootout with soldiers.

Only the Jalisco New Generation, the big gun cartel that forced down the helicopter, has used the void to grow into one of Mexico's most powerful international criminal groups. It started partly out of the methamphetamine division of Sinaloa run by the late Ignacio "Nacho" Coronel, and had been considered a Sinaloa ally. But no one knows how those two top cartels will interact now.

"The Jalisco cartel has been growing ... and Sinaloa was debilitated by the arrest of El Chapo," said Raul Benitez, a security expert with the National Autonomous University of Mexico. "El Chapo surely will try to restore the power of Sinaloa."

A similar power grab has occurred in Honduras, where the Mara Salvatrucha gang has moved up from extortion and street-corner drug sales to moving drug shipments from Colombia through the region, said Samuel Logan of Southern Pulse, a business and security consulting firm.

"I don't know what side they're on, if they're really working for the Colombians or the Mexicans, but Chapo's people lost a lot of turf at the end of last year and the supply chain is hurting, " Logan said. "So he may be working to build that up again."

Bombing shows Turkey a vulnerable target for Islamic State

ISTANBUL (AP)—Officials have raised concerns that a deadly bombing in southeastern Turkey is part of a campaign of retaliation by the Islamic State group for a recent crackdown on its operations in the country.

If they are right, Turkey would be a particularly vulnerable target for the extremists.

The country shares a 1,250-kilometer (775-mile) border with Iraq and Syria, putting it nearby to strongholds of the self-proclaimed Islamic State. And, as recent arrests show, the extremist group already has established its reach into Turkey.

In an intensified crackdown, Turkish officials say they have detained more than 500 people suspected of working with IS in the last six months. An operation this month netted 21 terrorism suspects in an investigation of recruitment networks in multiple parts of the country, the officials said.

The moves suggest an attempt to dismantle an entrenched presence inside Turkey. And authorities fear that Monday's bombing in the town of Suruc that killed 32 people and wounded nearly 100 is a warning by the extremists against such a campaign.

AP

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and his wife Sare Davutoglu speak with a man who was injured in a blast in Suruc on Monday, during a visit to a hospital in Sanliurfa, Turkey, Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

"This attack was against Turkey; against Turkey's democracy; against the peace and welfare of our people; against public order," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said after the attack that officials called a suicide bombing. He vowed to go after those behind the bombing and made clear he believes it was the Islamic State.

Turkish officials say they were early to declare IS a terrorist group and have taken extensive efforts to impede and degrade it. The recent moves against the militants are merely an extension of these efforts, they say, the result of close monitoring of IS militants in Turkey.

But Western countries have long complained that the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has done too little to prevent IS militants and recruits from crossing its borders into Syria and Iraq.

Some analysts say that because of Turkey's aggressive policies against Syrian President Bashar Assad in that country's civil war, it has allowed militants of many stripes to operate in Turkey, providing cover to the Islamic State group.

They say the recent arrests are evidence that authorities were too slow to prevent IS from establishing a presence and building an infrastructure for the extremists.

Nigerian leader: Forces ready soon to take on Boko Haram

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said Tuesday a multinational African force will be in place within 10 days to take the fight to the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram that has killed thousands and was behind the abduction of hundreds of schoolgirls.

Buhari predicted in an interview with The Associated Press that Boko Haram would be defeated in 18 months or less. But he conceded that Nigerian authorities lack intelligence about the girls still missing after the mass-kidnapping from the northern town of Chibok in April 2014—an act that stirred international outrage and a campaign to "Bring Back Our Girls" that reached as far as the White House.

He said his government is open to freeing detained militants in exchange for the girls' freedom, but only if it finds credible Boko Haram leaders to negotiate with.

"I think Nigeria will make as much sacrifice as humanly possible to get the girls back. This is our main objective," Buhari said, a day after meeting with President Barack Obama.

Buhari spoke at the presidential guest house opposite the White House in a room decorated with murals of ceremonial Washington. He wore a traditional embroidered hat, popular among Muslims in northern Nigeria.

The visit by the 72-year old former dictator comes two months after taking office. Both Nigeria and the United States look to improve relations that soured because of government and military failures under Buhari's predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan, who was defeated in March elections. Obama said Monday the U.S. wants to cooperate on counter-terrorism and in combating corruption in Africa's largest economy and oil producer.

The elections heralded the first democratic change of power in the West African nation that has suffered decades of military rule, but Buhari faces formidable challenges—not least the Boko Haram insurgency that has killed more than 13,000 people and driven another 1.5 million from their homes.

Buhari, a former general, last week fired the service chiefs of the once-mighty Nigerian military, which he has accused of corruption. But he expressed confidence that the Islamists that have launched suicide bombings and village attacks since his inauguration, killing hundreds, would be surrounded and eliminated with the help of neighboring Benin, Chad, Cameroon and Niger. He said the multinational force would be ready by the end of the month.

WORLD BRIEFS

German spy chief sees reason to thank Snowden

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's domestic intelligence chief said Tuesday that the revelations by Edward Snowden have had at least one positive effect, by raising awareness about the importance of counter-espionage. Hans-Georg Maassen told a gathering of business leaders in the southwestern city of Stuttgart that after the Cold War ended, the issue of counter-espionage was seen as unimportant, German news agency dpa reported. "So maybe one can be grateful to Snowden that he has put a spotlight on the issue of counter-espionage in Germany," dpa quoted Maassen as saying. Germany's government reacted angrily two years ago to reports that Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone had been monitored by the U.S. National Security Agency.

3 Spanish reporters missing in war-torn Aleppo in Syria

MADRID (AP)—Three Spanish freelance journalists who traveled to Syria to report amid the country's long-running civil war have gone missing around the embattled northern city of Aleppo, a Spanish journalism association said Tuesday, the latest ensnared in the world's most dangerous assignment for reporters. The disappearance of Antonio Pampliega, Jose Manuel Lopez and Angel Sastre, presumed to be working together, comes as most media organizations have pulled out of Syria, especially with the rise of the extremist Islamic State group. At least 84 journalists have been killed since 2011 in Syria, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, while others remain missing or have been released for ransom. Elsa Gonzalez, the president of the Spanish journalism association, told Spanish National Television that the three disappeared while working in the Aleppo area. She said they entered Syria from Turkey on July 10.

Environment

World mayors at Vatican urge 'bold climate agreement'

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Mayors from around the world declared Tuesday that climate change is real, man-made and must be stopped as a matter of moral imperative, gathering at the Vatican to announce new measures to fight global warming and bask in Pope Francis' ecological star power.

The Vatican invited the 60 mayors to a two-day conference to keep up pressure on world leaders ahead of U.N. climate negotiations in Paris later this year. The meeting also aimed to promote Francis' environment encyclical, which denounced what he calls a fossil fuel-based world economy that exploits the poor and destroys the Earth.

One by one, the mayors lined up to sign a final declaration stating that "human-induced climate change is a scientific reality and its effective control is a moral imperative for humanity."

Francis told the gathering that he had "a lot of hope" that the Paris negotiations would succeed, but also warned the mayors: "You are the conscience of humanity."

Experts have long said that cities are key to reducing global warming since urban areas account for nearly three-quarters of human emissions. Mayor after mayor made an individual plea Tuesday for the world to change its ways.

Drawing rousing applause, California Gov. Jerry Brown denounced global warming deniers who he said were "bamboozling" the public and politicians with false information to persuade them that the world isn't getting warmer. California has enacted the toughest greenhouse gas emissions standards in North America.

"We have a very powerful opposition that, at least in my country, spends billions on trying to keep from office people such as yourselves and elect troglodytes and other deniers of the obvious science," said Brown, a former Jesuit seminarian.

AP

Pope Francis greets Rome Mayor Ignazio Marino as he meets mayors gathered in the Synod Hall during a conference on Modern Slavery and Climate Change at the Vatican, Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced new greenhouse gas emissions targets for the Big Apple—committing the city to reducing its emissions 40 percent by 2030—and urged other cities to follow suit.

"The Paris summit is just months away," de Blasio said. "We need to see it as the finish line of a sprint, and take every local action we can in the coming months to maximize the chance that our national governments will act boldly."

De Blasio is a founding member of an alliance of world cities that have committed to reducing emissions by 80 percent by 2050 or sooner.

San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee announced new measures of his own, saying the city that takes its name from the pope's nature-loving namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, would transition its municipal fleet of fire trucks, buses and trucks from petroleum diesel to renewable energy sources by the end of the year.

Stockholm Mayor Karin Wanngard said the Paris climate talks in December must take fossil fuels off the table and focus instead on renewable energy sources.

"Climate negotiators must dare to push boundaries and exclude fossil fuels as an option and reward solutions that are long-term sustainable and renewable," she said.

Stockholm is one of the world's leaders in using renewable energy sources, with 75 percent of the city's public transport network running on renewable energy. Wanngard's goal is to make the Swedish capital fossil fuel-free by 2040.

The climax of Tuesday's inaugural session was the afternoon audience with Francis, who has become a hero to the environmental movement and has used his moral authority and enormous popularity to focus world attention on climate change and its effects on the poor.

Francis' other main priority has been to raise awareness about human trafficking. The Vatican conference is aimed at showing how both are related: The exploitation of the Earth and its most vulnerable people, with global warming often responsible for creating "environmental refugees" forced to flee homes because of drought or other climate-induced natural disasters.

Francis told the gathering that while he had high hopes about the Paris climate negotiations, he also wanted the United Nations to focus more on human trafficking.

"The United Nations has to deal with this," he said.

The Vatican is angling for the U.N.'s new Sustainable Development Goals, to be finalized in September, to make a solid reference to the problems of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Day 2 of the Vatican conference was to deal specifically with the development goals.

"Addressing both of these phenomenon, climate change and modern slavery, is a herculean task for us as city administrators," said Tony Chammany, the mayor of Kochi, India.

Scientists record explosion at Alaska's Cleveland Volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An explosion Tuesday morning rocked Alaska's Cleveland Volcano but scientists have detected no ash cloud that could threaten jets crossing the Pacific Ocean.

Scientists as the Alaska Volcano Observatory recorded an explosion at the volcano 940 miles (1,500 kilometers) southwest of Anchorage in the Aleutian Islands.

U.S. Geological Survey geologist Kristi Wallace said a similar explosion was recorded in November. Ash may have been produced but likely stayed under 20,000 feet (6,100 meters), she said.

"We see this quite often and we think that they are associated with some sort of ash production," she said.

Clouds obscured the sky at 30,000 feet (9,150 meters). The observatory detected no ash above the clouds.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the airline industry become concerned for trans-Pacific flights when an ash cloud has the potential to exceed 20,000 feet (6,100 meters).

Alaska's Redoubt Volcano blew on Dec. 15, 1989, and sent ash 150 miles (240 kilometers) away into the path of a KLM jet carrying 231 passengers. Its four engines flamed out. The jet dropped more than 2 miles (3 kilometers), from 27,900 feet (8,500 meters) to 13,300 feet (4,050 meters), before the crew restarted all engines and landed the plane safely at Anchorage.

Cleveland Volcano is within 5,675-foot (1,730-meter) Cleveland Mountain, a nearly symmetrical peak that looks like an inverted V.

Cleveland Volcano forms the western part of Chuginadak Island and is 45 miles (70 kilometers) west of tiny Nikolski and its 15 permanent residents on Umnak Island. In previous eruptions, the village was not threatened by as the plume dispersed in other directions.

The volcano experienced a significant eruption in February 2001. Three explosive events generated ash as high as 39,000 feet (11,890 meters). The eruption also sent out lava and a hot avalanche that reached the ocean.

In the last 14 years, Cleveland Volcano has occasionally produced small lava flows and explosions with small ash clouds below 20,000 feet (6,100 meters). The explosions have launched debris onto the slope of the cone and sometimes hot avalanches.

Why airlines keep pushing biofuels: They have no choice

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of global fliers is expected to more than double in the next two decades. In order to carry all those extra passengers, airlines are turning to a technology very few can make work on a large scale: converting trash into fuel.

They have no other choice.

As people in countries such as China, India and Indonesia get wealthier they are increasingly turning to air travel for vacation or business, creating an enormous financial opportunity for the airlines. The number of passengers worldwide could more than double, to 7.3 billion a year, in the next two decades, according to the International Air Transport Association.

But many in the industry believe that without a replacement for jet fuel, that growth could be threatened by forthcoming rules that limit global aircraft emissions.

"It's about retaining, as an industry, our license to grow," says Julie Felgar, managing director for environmental strategy at plane maker Boeing, which is coordinating sustainable biofuel research programs in the U.S., Australia, China, Brazil, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

Cars, trucks and trains can run on electricity, natural gas, or perhaps even hydrogen someday to meet emissions rules. But lifting a few hundred people, suitcases and cargo 35,000 feet into the sky and carrying them across a continent requires so much energy that only liquid fuels can do the trick. Fuel from corn, which is easy to make and supplies nearly 10 percent of U.S. auto fuel, doesn't provide enough environmental benefit to help airlines meet emissions rules.

"Unlike the ground transport sector, they don't have a lot of alternatives," says Debbie Hammel, a bioenergy policy expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

That leaves so-called advanced biofuels made from agricultural waste, trash, or specialty crops that humans don't eat. United Airlines last month announced a $30 million stake in Fulcrum Bioenergy, the biggest investment yet by a U.S. airline in alternative fuels. Fulcrum hopes to build facilities that turn household trash into diesel and jet fuel.

FedEx, which burns 1.1 billion gallons of jet fuel a year, promised Tuesday to buy 3 million gallons per year of fuel that a company called Red Rock Biofuels hopes to make out of wood waste in Oregon. Southwest Airlines had already agreed to also buy some of Red Rock's planned output.

These efforts are tiny next to airlines' enormous fuel consumption. U.S. airlines burn through 45 million gallons every day. But airlines have little choice but to push biofuels because the industry is already in danger of missing its own emissions goals, and that's before any regulations now being considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and international agencies.

The industry's international trade group has pledged to stop increasing emissions by 2020 even as the number of flights balloons. By 2050, it wants carbon dioxide emissions to be half of what they were in 2005.

Like airlines, the U.S. military is also supporting development of these fuels for strategic and financial reasons. For biofuels makers, it is a potentially enormous customer: The military is the biggest single energy consumer in the country.

Life & Style

Bill Cosby's lawyers ask judge to keep settlement sealed

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers argued on Tuesday that his admission to using quaaludes in the 1970s doesn't mean he drugged and sexually assaulted women.

The comments came as the lawyers asked a court to preserve the confidentiality of Cosby's 2006 settlement in a sexual-battery lawsuit, which the accuser wants unsealed.

Cosby's lawyers instead attacked the weekend release of his deposition by a court reporting service and said the deposition and other filings unsealed this month have led to erroneous reports that brand Cosby a rapist.

"The media immediately pounced, inaccurately labeling the released testimony as defendant's `confession' of `drugging' women and assaulting them," Cosby lawyers Patrick O'Connor and George Gowen wrote. "Reading the media accounts, one would conclude that defendant has admitted to rape. And yet defendant admitted to nothing more than being one of the many people who introduced quaaludes into their consensual sex life in the 1970's."

Cosby, who's 78 years old, has been married for more than half a century. A federal judge in Philadelphia cited his self-imposed role as a "public moralist" in deciding to release long-sealed documents that contained excerpts from his deposition, in which he speaks of getting quaaludes to give women before sex.

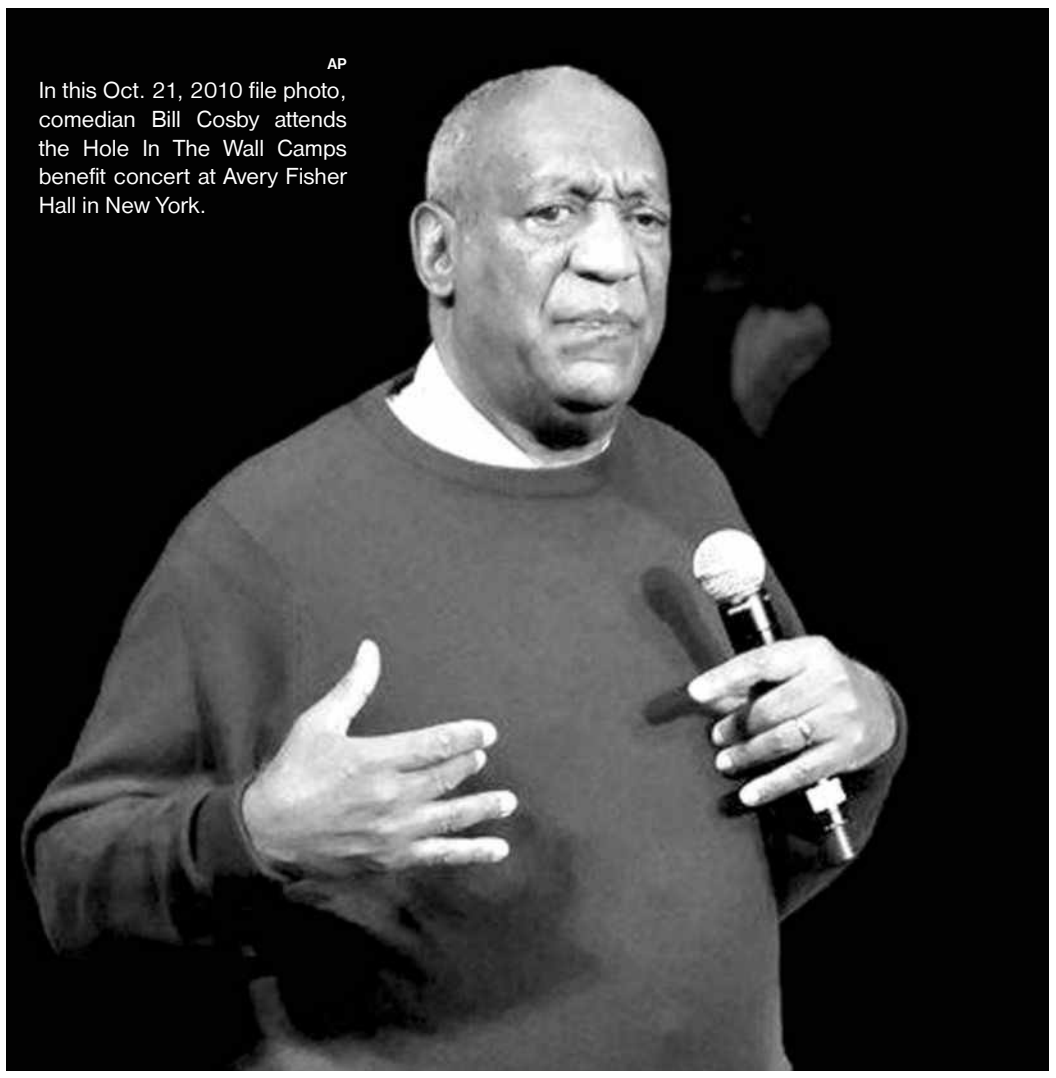
Cosby, who starred as Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" from 1984 to 1992, said that he did not take drugs or drink alcohol during the encounters with the women.

"There are countless tales of celebrities, music stars, and wealthy socialites in the 1970's willingly using quaaludes for recreational purposes and during consensual sex," his lawyers wrote, noting the pills were then called "disco biscuits."

The decade-old deposition represents the only time Cosby is known to have testified under oath about sexual-assault allegations. A former Temple University employee, Andrea Constand, told police Cosby had drugged and sexually assaulted her at his Philadelphia-area home. She called Cosby a friend and mentor. Cosby portrayed her as a willing partner in the deposition. She sued him after a prosecutor declined to press charges.

More than two dozen women have come forward since 2005 to accuse Cosby of molesting them. His agents have disputed many of their accounts, and he has not been charged with a crime.

The Associated Press obtained the full transcripts of Cosby's deposition from the court recording agency on Sunday, a day after The New York Times reported it had obtained them.



AP

In this Oct. 21, 2010 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby attends the Hole In The Wall Camps benefit concert at Avery Fisher Hall in New York.

E.L. Doctorow, author of 'Ragtime,' dies in New York at 84

NEW YORK (AP)—Writer E.L. Doctorow, who wryly reimagined the American experience in such novels as "Ragtime" and "The March" and applied its lessons to the past and the future in fiction and nonfiction, has died. He was 84.

He died Tuesday at a New York hospital from complications of lung cancer, his son, Richard Doctorow, confirmed.

Considered one of the major authors of the 20th century, Doctorow enjoyed critical and popular success over his 50-year career. He won the National Book Award for fiction in 1986 for "World's Fair" and the National Book Critics Circle award in 1989 for "Billy Bathgate" and in 2005 for "The March."

President Barack Obama praised Doctorow on Twitter as "one of America's greatest novelists."

"His books taught me much, and he will be missed," Obama wrote on his @POTUS account.

Besides Doctorow's 10 novels, he published two books of short stories, a play called "Drinks Before Dinner" and numerous essays and articles.

"I don't know what I set out to do," Doctorow said in 2006 after the publication of "The March," his acclaimed Civil War novel. "Someone pointed out to me a couple of years ago that you could line them up and in effect now with this book, 150 years of American history. ... And this was entirely unplanned."

Edgar Lawrence Doctorow was born Jan. 6, 1931, in New York. He was named after Edgar Allan Poe, whom he often disparaged as America's "greatest bad writer." His father ran a music store, and his mother was a pianist.

As a youngster he read widely and decided he would become a writer at age 9.

"I began to ask two questions while I was reading a book that excited me," he recalled. "Not only what was going to happen next but how is this done? How is it that these words on the page make me feel the way I'm feeling? This is the line of inquiry that I think happens in a child's mind, without him even knowing he has aspirations as a writer."

Doctorow graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He attended graduate school at Columbia University but left without completing a doctorate. He also served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

In the 1950s Doctorow worked as a script reader for Columbia Pictures, reading novels and summarizing them for possible film treatment. That job led him to his first novel, "Welcome to Hard Times," a Western published in 1960.

He spent a decade as a book editor at New American Library and then as editor in chief at Dial Press, working with such authors as Norman Mailer and James Baldwin.

Doctorow's second novel, a science fiction work called "Big as Life," was published in 1966 and was unsuccessful. But his third, "The Book of Daniel," published in 1971, catapulted him into the top rank of American writers.

Cosby testimony puts '70s party drug quaaludes back in news

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before there was Molly there was the quaalude, the most popular party drug of the 1970s.

It was also, as we now know, the one Bill Cosby kept on hand to give to young women he wanted to have sex with.

In 10-year-old testimony uncovered this week, Cosby said he would offer the drug "the same as a person would say, 'Have a drink.'"

He never tried to sneak any of it into someone's drink, he added, as many others did during those years. But when asked whether a woman who accused him of drugging and sexually assaulting her in 1976 could have resisted him while on quaaludes, he replied, "I don't know."

One thing is certain. The drug, outlawed in the United States since 1982, was hugely popular 40 years ago. People routinely swallowed it with their drinks at nightclubs from coast to coast.

The 13-year-old girl with whom Roman Polanski pleaded guilty to having unlawful sexual intercourse in 1977 said the Oscar-winning director plied her with champagne and half a quaalude before raping her at Jack Nicholson's house. Polanski fled to France in 1978 to avoid a long prison sentence and continues to live there as a fugitive.

Holly Madison, in her recently published memoir, "Down the Rabbit Hole: Curious Adventures and Cautionary Tales of a Former Playboy Bunny," writes that Hugh Hefner once offered her a handful of quaaludes.

"`Usually, I don't approve of drugs, but you know, in the '70s they used to call these pills thigh openers,'" she says he told her. Hefner has declined to discuss Madison's book.

At one point during Cosby's testimony for a lawsuit he eventually settled out of court, he said he had seven different prescriptions for quaaludes. He got them by asking his doctor for some, he said. The doctor asked him if he had a "bad back or anything," and Cosby said yes.

But Cosby said in the deposition that he wanted them for non-medical reasons. "Quaaludes happen to be the drug that kids, young people were using to party with and there were times when I wanted to have them just in case," he said.

Cosby's lawyers wrote in a legal filing in arguments over the release of the testimony on Tuesday that quaaludes "were a highly popular recreational drug in the 1970s, labeled in slang as `disco biscuits,' and known for their capacity to increase sexual arousal."

The lawyers wrote that media reports inaccurately labeled Cosby's testimony about the drug as a "confession of drugging and assaulting women."

"There are countless tales of celebrities, music stars, and wealthy socialites in the 1970s willingly using quaaludes for recreational purposes and during consensual sex," the lawyers wrote in the filing.

The drug, synthesized in the 1950s, was originally intended as an anti-malarial treatment, says James Adams, associate professor at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy. When doctors discovered what a great painkiller and sleep aid it appeared to be, they prescribed it for that instead.

Soon, people discovered that it also released sexual inhibitions, particularly in men, and that when mixed with alcohol it produced a mellow euphoria. It also made it difficult if not impossible for an intoxicated woman to resist a man's advances.

As it spread through the hippie culture and then into the bars and private parties of the hipster crowd, bootleg versions known as "ludes" began to flood the streets. Doctors who prescribed it began to be seen as pariahs.

"Quaalude accounted for less than 2 percent of our sales but created 98 percent of our headaches," the chairman of the William H. Rorer pharmaceuticals company told The Associated Press in 1981, three years after the company sold its rights to make the drug. The following year the Food and Drug Administration banned it in the United States.

It's still legal with a prescription in Mexico, but until Cosby's testimony it seemed to have become the forgotten party drug among American millennials. Save for those fans of the 2013 film "The Wolf of Wall Street," whose anti-hero, Leonardo DiCaprio's Jordan Belfort, was wildly addicted to it.

"Party drugs go in and out of favor," Adams says. "They come and go in waves. MDMA is another drug from the '60s that used to be really popular and went out of popularity and then came back."

These days it's known as Molly.

Cosby cut from documentary about black stuntmen

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill Cosby has been cut from a documentary about black stuntmen.

Producer Nonie Robinson said Tuesday that Cosby has been removed from "Painted Down." The documentary is about the history of white stunt performers who were "painted down" to look black to double for black actors.

For the film, now in post-production, Cosby gave an interview about his experience with the practice on the 1960s TV series "I Spy."

Robinson said the film, which also features Whoopi Goldberg, had been "standing by" Cosby. But after the latest release of depositions in which Cosby said he gave women Quaaludes in order to have sex with them, Robinson said axing him from the documentary "wasn't difficult."

More than two dozen women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct in the past four decades.

Home stretch: Obama, Jon Stewart share moment of senioritis

NEW YORK (AP)—For President Barack Obama, six-and-a-half years in the Oval Office seems like an eternity. Comedian Jon Stewart has been keeping his anchor seat warm on "The Daily Show" for 16. On Tuesday, the two shared a moment of senioritis as both approach a common phenomenon: the light at the end of the tunnel.

As Stewart prepares for his final episode on Aug. 6, he got one final opportunity to quiz the president and poke a little fun at his expense. For Obama, too, it's the end of an era: he's appeared on the hit Comedy Central show seven times, including three as president.

But in the interview, airing Tuesday night, Stewart put the spotlight on Obama's tenure and the long list of problems that remain: unfinished business in the Middle East, for example, or shortcomings at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"You really do only have a year left!" quipped Stewart, after a particularly candid answer from the president.

As he enters the home stretch, Obama took a victory lap on Stewart's show, ticking off a list of achievements on health care, foreign policy and more. "The VA works better than when I came into office. Government works better than when I came into office. The economy is better than when I came into office," Obama boasted.

Yet he conceded that many of his goals will go unmet when he leaves office in 2017.

"You're always going to fall short, because if you're hitting your marks, that means you didn't set them high enough," Obama said. "We don't score a touchdown every time, but we move the ball forward."

If that kinetic analogy sounds familiar, that's because it is. At a news conference last year in the Philippines, Obama described his approach to global issues as a pursuit of incremental progress. "You hit singles, you hit doubles; every once in a while we may be able to hit a home run," Obama said in what's since been dubbed the "Obama doctrine."

It was a reflective Obama, more than a comedic one, that showed up at "The Daily Show" studios in New York City on Tuesday. He recalled the sky-high expectations that awaited him when he was elected after a campaign in which his face was etched across the country on posters bearing the word "Hope."

"You made the posters," Stewart interjected.

"I like the posters," Obama quipped.

On Iran, too, Obama portrayed the controversial deal as the best compromise that government could achieve. In a jab at the George W. Bush administration, he joked that his critics think if only former Vice President Dick Cheney had been on the U.S. negotiating team, "then everything would be fine."

But while Obama was focused on the three-quarters of the loaf he was able to get, he acknowledged it was the job of Stewart and the media to measure the part of the loaf he couldn't.

"You're going to really go with this whole sandwich analogy?" asked an amused Stewart.

As his final appearance came to a close, Obama offered a brief observation about Donald Trump, who is drawing GOP outrage with a string of controversial comments and insults about his 2016 competitors.

"I'm sure the Republicans are enjoying Mr. Trump's current dominance as the front-runner," Obama said wryly.

Added Stewart: "Anything that makes them look less crazy."

AP

President Barack Obama, left, talks with Jon Stewart, host of "The Daily Show" during a taping on Tuesday, July 21, 2015, in New York.

50 Cent testifies about his finances in sex-tape lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper 50 Cent, ranked by Forbes as one of hip-hop's five richest artists, downplayed his wealth on Tuesday as he testified in court about his finances, business deals and the media attention surrounding his recent bankruptcy filing.

The multiplatinum-selling artist, born Curtis Jackson III, appeared in Manhattan state Supreme Court in a proceeding to decide possible additional punitive damages in an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit. A jury has already ordered him to pay $5 million in damages in a lawsuit brought by a woman who said he didn't have her permission when he released a sex tape she made with a boyfriend.

Questioned by an attorney for the woman, Lastonia Leviston, the musician-actor denied owning many luxury items—including expensive cars and flashy jewelry—saying he rents, borrows and leases instead.

"It's a borrowed piece of jewelry from the jeweler," he told Leviston's lawyer, Philip Freidin, when asked about a photo of a 65-karat ring he posted on his Instagram account.

Leviston sued the "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" rapper after a 13-minute video appeared online showing a wig-wearing 50 Cent crudely narrating and taunting his rival Rick Ross, who was not in the video but has a daughter with Leviston. At the time the video surfaced, Ross and 50 Cent were trading barbs via video, lyrics and interviews.

Jackson has said Leviston's then-boyfriend gave him the 2008 tape and that, while he didn't actually post it online, the boyfriend said she didn't mind if he did.

"I'm sorry if you feel like I hurt you," he told Leviston, who was sitting in the gallery.

Days after the jury ordered he pay $5 million, Jackson filed for personal bankruptcy protection in Connecticut. That filing lists his assets and liabilities between $10 million and $50 million.

On Tuesday, his lawyer, James Renard, said he was worth $4.4 million.

Under questioning from Freidin, Jackson said he has been paid as much as $100,000 for appearing at a nightclub and in the movie "Spy." But he was less revealing about how much he earned from various partnerships, licensing agreements and business deals with larger corporations such as The Walt Disney Co., Intel and Reebok.

"You have to ask my accountant," he said when asked whether he earned $100 million when vitaminwater was purchased by The Coca-Cola Co. in 2007.

The 40-year-old said he'd never done anything to deny Forbes' valuation of his net-worth at $155 million.

AP

Curtis Jackson, aka 50 Cent, appears in Manhattan Supreme Court on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 in New York to testify in a lawsuit about a sex tape he allegedly posted online.

Khloe Kardashian to host 'hybrid' talk show on FYI channel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Kardashian TV footprint is expanding yet again.

The FYI channel says Khloe Kardashian will host and produce a "hybrid" talk series titled "Kocktails With Khloe."

Kardashian will be joined in the kitchen and at the dinner table by celebrity guests and friends for conversation, cooking and party games, FYI said Tuesday.

She's been part of her family's TV empire in shows including "Keeping up With the Kardashians" and "Khloe and Lamar," which featured NBA player Lamar Odom. Odom and Kardashian were married, but she filed for divorce in 2013.

"Kocktails With Khloe" is set to debut in late 2015.

Daughter struggles to resolve mom's failure to defend her

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my early 50s, disabled and live with my elderly mother. Between the ages of 8 and 11 I was sexually abused by my adoptive father. My mother finally caught him in the act, but the next day they acted like nothing had happened. He never did it again, and it was never spoken about, ever.

I have read about women who caught their husbands abusing their children and kicked them out, pressed charges, etc. It makes me think I didn't matter enough for her to do that. I confronted her about it a few years ago. Her response was that it would have been in all the papers (my parents were prominent local musicians in our town), and there was no way she could have raised two kids on her own.

I still have a deep ache in my soul that tells me that I don't matter as much as other human beings. I resist going to therapy because I live with her and I know she will quiz me about what we talked about in the sessions. I just want to keep the peace and not risk her going into a tirade about how she "did what she had to do." I don't know what to do. Please help.

STILL HURTING IN NEVADA

DEAR STILL HURTING: You should absolutely talk about this to a therapist. If your mother demands to know what you're discussing, tell her. If she unleashes a tirade, invite her to accompany you to a session so she can explain to your therapist that she didn't kick her child-molesting husband out because she was afraid she couldn't support herself and two children alone. (Was your sibling also assaulted?)

You and your mom are both adults. You should be able to have a frank discussion without her intimidating you with her anger. If anyone has a right to be angry, it is you. And she should clearly understand how her inaction affected you for all these years, and possibly your sibling, as well.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I never used to be a supporter of same-sex marriage. During the 2008 presidential elections, I posted my opinions about it on social media. Since then, I have changed my mind. The most significant reason is that I worked closely with a gay woman for four years. After I got to know her, her wife and two children, I realized they are the same as any other happy family.

I feel I may have offended some friends when I posted those views—specifically, my best friend from childhood, who has come out as gay. I'd like to send her a message letting her know my opinion has changed and that I support her. Do you think I should reach out to her, or leave the past in the past? And if I do, what should I say?

ADDING MY VOICE FOR EQUALITY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ADDING: By all means reach out. I congratulate you for becoming more aware of and compassionate about LGBT issues in the last few years.

Tell your friend about your change of heart since those posts were written, that you hope her life is happy and fulfilling, and offer an apology if you caused her any hurt. If you would like to explain why your feelings changed, do that, too. I'm sure she will be interested, and glad to know.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

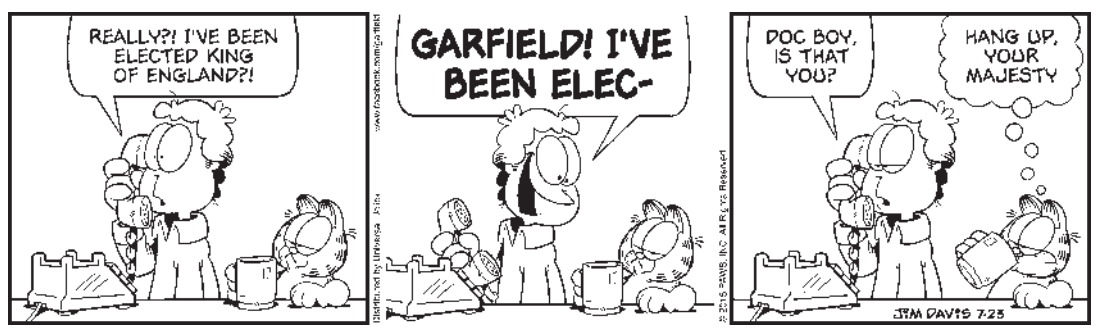
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

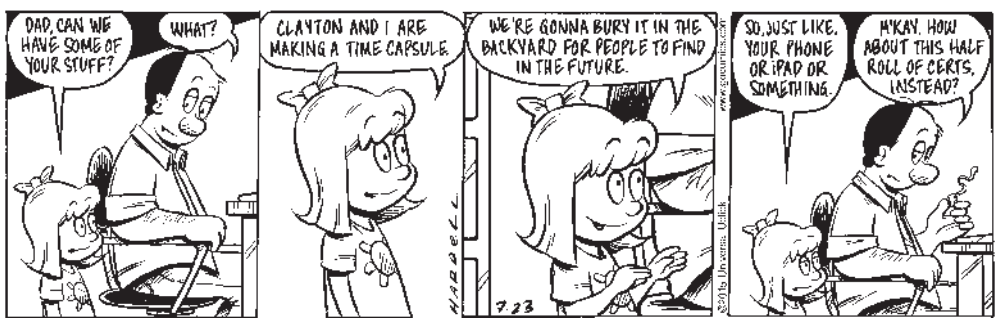
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



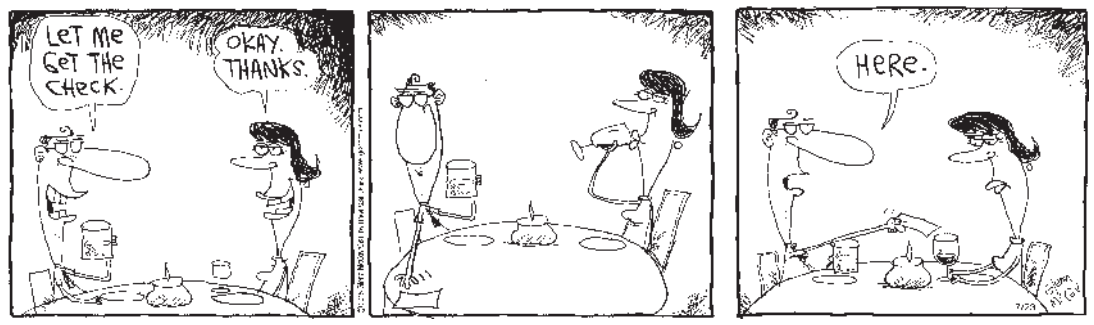
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, CAN WE HAVE SOME OF YOUR STUFF?
WHAT?
CLAYTON AND I ARE MAKING A TIME CAPSULE.
WE'RE GONNA BURY IT IN THE BACKYARD FOR PEOPLE TO FIND IN THE FUTURE.
SO, JUST LIKE, YOUR PHONE OR IPAD OR SOMETHING.
M'KAY. HOW ABOUT THIS HALF ROLL OF CERTS, INSTEAD?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

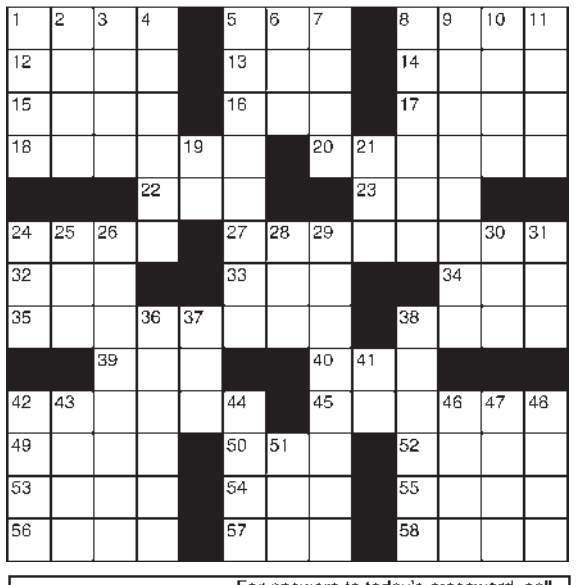
ACROSS
1 Comics' stock-in-trade
5 Unruly group
8 Urban pall
12 Atmosphere
13 Piercing tool
14 Glass sheet
15 Thing
16 Modern (Pref.)
17 Machu Picchu native
18 Villainous
20 Guard
22 Tackle moguls
23 Pod occupant
24 Prolonged sleep
27 Attacks vigorously
32 Lawyers' org.
33 "Little Women" author's monogram
34 Anger
35 Nearly a score
38 Jet black
39 Genetic matter
40 Payable
42 Father of Charlie and Emilio
45 Pieces of work
49 Culture medium
50 Wholly
52 Field mouse
53 Oxen's burden
54 Half of XIV
55 Posterior
56 Curved molding
57 Longing
58 Formerly, formerly

DOWN
1 Profit
2 Jam ingredient?
3 Diver Louganis
4 Indian turnover
5 Lower jawbone
6 Have bills
7 Huff and puff
8 Ornamental shrub
9 Chinese language
10 Not again?
11 Equipment
19 Fine
21 Police alert, for short
24 Trash receptacle
25 Japanese sash
26 Comic strip magician
28 Cockney dwelling
29 Guitar's cousin
30 Parch
31 Gender
36 Main dish
37 Mai —
38 Artist's body of work
41 2009 Pixar movie
42 — Clinic
43 Quite enthusiastic
44 Almost black
46 Tart
47 "Desire Under the —"
48 Calendar abbr.
51 Whopper

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	A	G	■	J	A	M	■	P	O	O	L
H	O	U	R	■	A	D	A	■	A	U	R	A
A	C	T	O	F	G	O	D	■	S	T	A	R
G	H	O	U	L	■	■	E	X	T	O	L	S
■	■	■	C	U	R	L	■	R	A	F	■	■
B	A	T	H	■	I	O	T	A	■	G	I	N
E	M	U	■	S	T	O	R	Y	■	A	N	O
D	I	G	■	L	E	N	O	■	A	S	K	S
■	■	■	O	H	O	■	S	T	I	R	■	■
E	F	F	E	T	E	■	■	S	T	O	R	K
B	A	W	L	■	C	U	P	O	F	I	E	A
O	V	A	L	■	H	M	O	■	U	T	A	H
N	E	R	O	■	O	A	I	■	L	O	R	N

Yesterday's answer 7-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daniel Radcliffe, 26; Paul Wesley, 33; Marlon Wayans, 43; Woody Harrelson, 54.

Happy Birthday: Stick to your plan and refuse to let sudden, unexpected alterations throw you off your game. Question and research your options before you make a move that will affect your home or financial life. Discipline and hard work will be required to reach the success you are aiming for. Don't fight a losing battle when it's best to take a detour. Your numbers are 2, 12, 15, 21, 27, 30, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Follow through with your plans. Stay busy working toward your own personal goals and you will avoid getting into an argument with someone who is looking for a fight. Don't meddle or let anyone interfere in your life. Do what's best for you.✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Prepare to make alterations to your living space or the conditions in which you live. Don't put up with what isn't working for you. Personal change is highlighted, and being with someone who encourages you is essential.✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep a close watch on the way someone responds. The possibility of being misled is apparent. If you aren't clear where you stand, ask questions. You can't make a good decision based on false information. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in something that you find intriguing, and you will enjoy the people you spend time with. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty for doing something that brings you great joy. Arguments will lead to a stalemate. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make creative changes at home and you will please someone you love. Plan to upgrade your skills and knowledge in order to keep up with the changing times. Taking on extra jobs that you can do from home will be fruitful. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work on your own and prepare diligently in order to do the best you possibly can. It's the fine details and precision you promote that will win you a chance to advance. Romance is in the stars, and a commitment can be made. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take whatever others say in stride. Getting upset will only hold you back. Use your intelligence and ability to find valuable solutions to outshine anyone trying to make you look bad. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let anyone talk you into something that doesn't feel right or isn't what you want to do. Be proactive and follow through with your plans, and you will feel better about your situation and the direction in which you are headed.✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your open-mindedness will be enticing to onlookers. Wheeling and dealing will lead to profitable deals and positive personal changes. Be true to what you want, but don't mislead or hurt someone in your quest to reach your goals.✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be prepared to deal with last-minute changes. Don't let anything ruin your plans. Adjust quickly and keep moving. It's up to you to control the situation. If you let other people's problems take over, you will end up being disappointed.✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can fix anything. Don't wait for someone else to make the first move. Be open and willing to do your part, and you will get the go-ahead to lead the way. Physical challenges must be handled cautiously. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Size up your situation and make adjustments that are cost-efficient. As long as you stay within your means, you can bring about positive change. Love is encouraged. A serious decision regarding someone special will change your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are discreet, passionate and disciplined. You are protective and confident.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	5	6			
		9		2		4		
	7						8	
7								8
5	2						7	3
4								1
	5						2	
		1		9		7		
			2	6	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	4	3	1	6	2	5	7
1	3	5	7	2	9	4	6	8
6	7	2	8	5	4	3	9	1
4	2	6	1	3	7	9	8	5
5	8	7	9	4	2	1	3	6
9	1	3	6	8	5	7	4	2
7	6	1	4	9	8	5	2	3
3	5	9	2	6	1	8	7	4
2	4	8	5	7	3	6	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOOGLE CHROME **Solution: 7 letters**

K	C	A	B	L	U	E	R	A	W	T	F	O	S	G
N	I	N	G	I	S	S	E	R	D	D	A	S	R	A
I	S	S	W	E	N	U	P	D	A	T	E	E	E	M
H	B	P	V	I	D	E	O	S	P	E	E	A	S	E
T	A	Y	A	R	N	I	R	B	P	N	T	R	U	S
L	F	N	G	M	Ⓢ	Ⓓ	Ⓐ	A	S	R	N	C	N	I
A	L	O	D	O	A	D	O	T	O	E	U	H	O	T
R	R	A	S	R	L	I	R	W	W	T	O	T	I	E
R	U	J	T	O	O	O	L	A	U	N	C	H	T	P
Y	G	A	S	S	R	I	N	D	O	I	C	E	A	O
E	O	V	P	E	N	C	D	H	O	B	A	M	G	T
G	O	A	R	K	N	I	I	O	C	M	H	E	I	K
R	G	T	S	Y	E	G	A	M	I	E	A	S	V	S
E	L	A	S	W	O	L	L	E	Y	N	T	I	A	E
S	E	D	R	E	D	D	E	F	A	U	L	T	N	D

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Yesterday's Answer: Marketing

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Ace Hardware CNMI Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

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is currently seeking for

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Joeten Development dba Joeten Superstore

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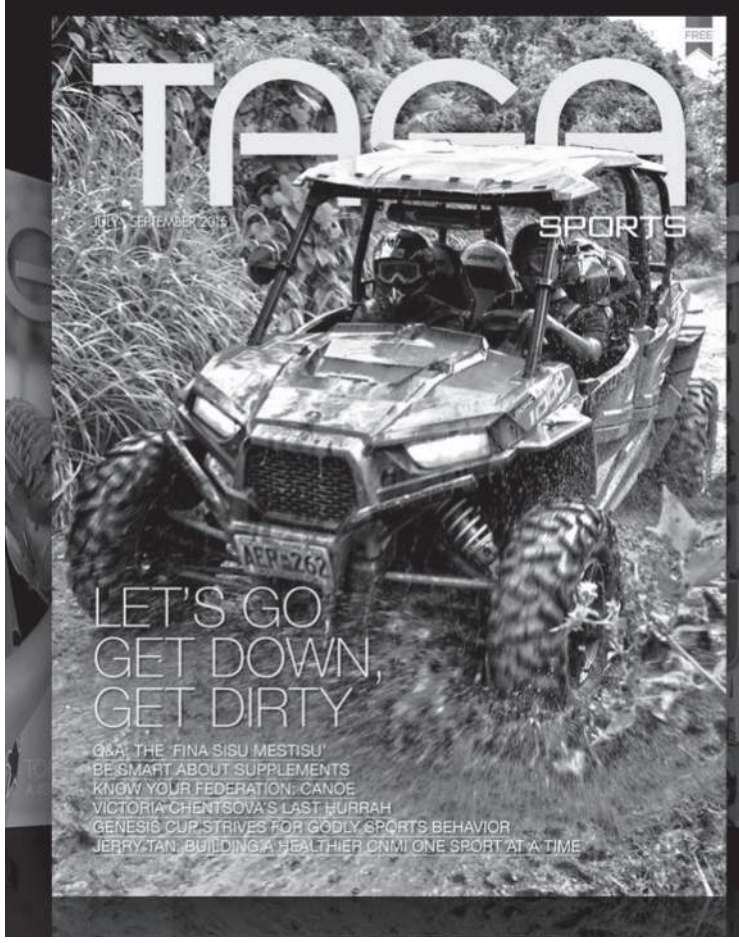
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SPORTS
LET'S GO, GET DOWN, GET DIRTY
Q&A: THE 'FINA SISU MESTISU'
BE SMART ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS
KNOW YOUR FEDERATION: CANOE
VICTORIA CHENTSOVA'S LAST HURRAH
GENESIS CUP STRIVES FOR GODLY SPORTS BEHAVIOR
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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

DeAndre Jordan happy with Clippers after free agent 'fiasco'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—DeAndre Jordan thought the Dallas Mavericks offered everything he wanted, including a fresh start and a starring role.

Then Jordan thought about it some more, and the craziest free-agent recruitment story in recent NBA history ended with him back on the Los Angeles Clippers.

"When free agency started, this whole fiasco was not my intent," Jordan said Tuesday.

Jordan celebrated his 27th birthday at Staples Center with the Clippers, proudly holding up the revamped version of his familiar No. 6 jersey alongside new teammates Paul Pierce and Josh Smith.

Yet Jordan realizes he nearly derailed the Clippers' title hopes and definitely disrupted Dallas' retooling plans by backing out of his verbal commitment. The two-time NBA rebounding champion changed his mind after days of existential angst and a frantic trip to Houston by the Clippers' leaders to sit out the final hours of the signing moratorium together.

Jordan knows he picked an awfully weird way to stick with the same team, but he regretted the decision to join the Mavs shortly after making it.

"Originally with Dallas, I thought I wanted change," Jordan said. "I wanted a bigger role and more responsibility, and I was ready to embrace and accept that challenge. But (when) I got by myself and I was able to think about everything that just happened, I realized that being with the Clippers was the best decision for me."

Jordan has spent his entire seven-year career with the Clippers, who have made four straight playoff appearances for the first time. After decades of incompetence, they've become one of the NBA's elite teams with Jordan, Chris Paul and Blake Griffin leading the way under coach Doc Rivers.

AP
Los Angeles Clippers DeAndre Jordan, the league rebounding champion, is reintroduced by the team at a news conference at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Jordan decided he had to find out how this story ends.

"I really thought about being on one team for my entire career," said Jordan, who agreed to a four-year, $87.6 million deal to return. "That was really important to me. I've been here, and the past few seasons I've had have been pretty successful. I also feel like personally, I know the city. I know the fans. I'm used to the city of L.A., and I love it here."

With four straight winning seasons and a growing fan base, the Clippers have shaken off their lamentable history under Donald Sterling and opened a prosperous new era under billionaire owner Steve Ballmer.

The Clippers also retooled their roster after their second-round playoff exit this spring - even if it would have meant much less if the big man had left a hole in the middle. Instead, Jordan was all smiles at Staples Center alongside fellow returnee Austin Rivers and five new teammates: Pierce, Smith, Wesley Johnson, Cole Aldrich and rookie Branden Dawson.

"First of all, he never left," Rivers said. "I keep hearing that he came back. He never left. He talked about it, but he came back. I tell DJ all the time, you should be celebrated for making the right decision. I think he had that right to do that. It has happened before. It happens in business all the time, and the difference is, what we do is public, so everybody gets a chance to talk about it."

Jordan realizes he left plenty of angry fans back in his home state. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has dismissed the apology posted on Jordan's Twitter account.

"We make decisions in life, and when you go back and change your mind on them, I feel like the only thing you can do is man up and apologize for it," Jordan said. "And that's what I did. I can't speak for Mark or anybody else."

Jordan has led the league in rebounding and field-goal percentage for two straight years, yet his initial logic for leaving the Clippers suggests he occasionally feels overlooked in the shadow of his two All-Star teammates. Still, he scoffed at the idea he has a fractured relationship with Paul.

"I love Chris," Jordan said. "When Chris got here, he changed the culture of our team. He helped me out in so many ways on and off the floor, just becoming a better player and a student of the game. I know it may look (like an argument) on the floor because we're both emotional and vocal players. But when it comes down to it, we're criticizing each other because we want what's best for the team."

Rivers and Jordan both laughed at the memory of July 8, which the Clippers' leaders spent holed up in Jordan's home before he could sign his deal. Griffin kept fans entertained by tweeting photos of a chair wedged under the knob on Jordan's front door, or a tent in the backyard at the supposed siege.

"It wasn't a hostage situation," Jordan said with a grin. "I feel like I'm a pretty big guy, and I don't think they could lock me inside my own house."

"Oh no, we could lock him up," Rivers interjected. "If we wanted to, that would have happened."

NBA BRIEFS

Pistons welcome Reggie Jackson back with new contract

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Less than a month ago, Stan Van Gundy said bringing back point guard Reggie Jackson was his top offseason priority. So it made sense that, with a long-term deal done, the Detroit Pistons introduced Jackson in a formal news conference in the west atrium of the Palace—where the team holds many of its biggest announcements these days. "It was a big day for us last year when we made the trade for Reggie, but now to get him locked up for the long term is even bigger for us," said Van Gundy, Detroit's coach and team president. "We look at Reggie as a big part of our foundation that we're trying to build here." Jackson was a restricted free agent, and this deal—worth a reported $80 million over five years—keeps him with Detroit after the Pistons traded for him in the middle of last season. The agreement came together a while ago—Van Gundy had talked about Jackson's return after a news conference about a different topic over a week ago - but the team formally announced the signing Monday. For a franchise that has struggled to land top free agents lately, the trade for Jackson should play a big role in shaping the team's future. Jackson averaged 14.5 points per game last season, including 17.6 in 27 games after he was traded from Oklahoma City to the Pistons and became a full-time starter. The 25-year-old guard will be asked to team up with promising big man Andre Drummond and help Detroit try to return to the postseason, where the Pistons haven't been since 2009.

Source: Cavs, Richard Jefferson agree to 1-year deal

CLEVELAND (AP)—Richard Jefferson has experience, deep knowledge of the NBA and a deft shooting touch. The Cavaliers plan to lean on all those attributes. The free agent forward has agreed to terms on a one-year deal for next season with Cleveland, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Jefferson has not yet signed his contract. Jefferson, who came off the bench for coach Rick Carlisle in Dallas last season, will receive the veteran's minimum salary of roughly $1.5 million. The 35-year-old averaged 5.8 points and 2.5 rebounds in 17 minutes per game in his one season with Dallas and shot a team-leading 43 percent from 3-point range. He had been expected to return to the Mavericks, but he may have become expendable when the club signed shooting guard Wesley Matthews. Jefferson fills the roster spot created by the retirement of Shawn Marion. While Marion wasn't a major contributor on the floor, he helped mentor Cleveland's younger players and Jefferson could have a similar impact.

Sky airs Froome data as Tour de France nears Alpine finale

SISTERON, France (AP)—The team of Tour de France leader Chris Froome bowed to pressure Tuesday and released data about his riding power, heart rate and pedaling rhythm, hoping to quell speculation about doping ahead of an increasingly likely victory in Paris.

On the Tour's second rest day, Team Sky presented the figures after comments on French TV raised questions about Froome's performance and incidents in which spectators have booed, spat upon and thrown urine on the rider and his teammates—behavior attributed in part to the unfounded speculation about his speed on the way to victory in Stage 10.

With a 3 minute, 10 second lead on his closest rival, and his mountain-climbing nearly unparalleled, Froome said he's in "a great place" as the three-week race resumes Wednesday with Stage 17's 161-kilometer (100-mile) jaunt over four climbs from Digne-les-Bains to an uphill finish at Pra Loup mountain resort.

It's the start of four grueling days in the Alps. The climax comes Saturday with an uphill finish at Alpe d'Huez, a day before a largely ceremonial ride for the race winner on the Champs-Elysees in Paris.

"The third week of the Tour is always unpredictable. You never know how anyone is going to respond," said American rider Tejay van Garderen, the BMC team leader who is third overall, 3:32 behind of Froome.

Van Garderen said the British race leader, who won the Tour in 2013 and has never tested positive for doping, has had to deal with "the aftermath" of doping cheats of the past.

"It was clear that he dealt with the heat and dealt with the (first) rest day better than other people did," Van Garderen said of Froome's Stage 10 victory. "I think it's very unfair for him to have to deal with all the scrutiny."

Froome, a Kenya-born Briton, said his team wants to address doubts about Sky's performances with the release of his rider data.

"I'm not sure if numbers are going to fix everything, but certainly I feel as a team and myself, we're definitely trying to be as open and transparent as possible," he said.

Sky performance analyst Tim Kerrison presented figures including Froome's power output, cadence and heart rate on the climb to the Stage 10 finish. The figures showed the rider's ability to generate vast amounts of power, hitting a top speed of 27.7 kph going uphill.

Kerrison said Froome produced 414 watts and a pedal cadence of 97 revolutions per minute on average on the climb. Froome's heart rate hit 174 beats per minute the highest rate that the team has tallied from him in any recent Grand Tour race and Kerrison called that a sign that Froome had arrived "very fresh" at the foot of that ascent.

Rockies routed, 9-0, by Rangers as Choo hits for the cycle

DENVER (AP)—Shin-Soo Choo hit for the cycle, Matt Harrison earned his first win in 14 months and the Texas Rangers routed the Colorado Rockies 9-0 on Tuesday night.

Delino DeShields had a career-high four hits and Prince Fielder homered for the Rangers, who won for only the third time in 13 games.

Choo, who had three RBIs, doubled in the second inning, homered in the fourth and singled in the fifth. He completed the cycle with a triple to center leading off the ninth.

It was the eighth cycle in franchise history and first since Alex Rios did it on Sept. 23, 2013, against Houston.

Harrison (1-1) allowed seven hits in six innings.

Rockies starter Kyle Kendrick (3-11) was charged with 10 hits and six runs in 4 1/3 innings.

AP
Colorado Rockies' Troy Tulowitzki reacts after swinging at and missing a pitch from Texas Rangers starting pitcher Matt Harrison in the third inning of an inter league baseball game Tuesday, July 21, 2015, in Denver.

Cubs 5, Reds 4, 13 innings

In Cincinnati, Kyle Schwarber hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth inning, then completed yet another big night at Great American Ball Park with a solo shot in the 13th, rallying the Cubs to the road win.

Schwarber's homer off Nate Adcock (1-2) gave the rookie his first two-homer game, right in the ballpark where he grew up rooting for the Reds. He finally got to play at Great American in the All-Star Futures game nine days ago and won the MVP award with a two-run triple.

Jason Motte (7-1) allowed three hits in two innings. Justin Grimm pitched the 13th for his second save in three chances.

Cincinnati's Todd Frazier had another big game, driving in three runs with a sacrifice fly and a tiebreaking two-run single in the seventh inning.

Yankees 3, Orioles 2

New York, little-used Brendan Ryan hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the sixth inning, helping the Yankees get the win.

Alex Rodriguez hit a sacrifice fly off Wei-Yin Chen (4-6), and Chase Headley added an RBI double as New York moved 10 games over .500 (51-41) for the first time since Sept. 13, 2013.

Center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury made an over-the-shoulder catch with a runner on second in the seventh to preserve the win for Justin Wilson (3-0). Andrew Miller got three outs for his 21st save in 21 chances.

New York opened a five-game lead in the division over Baltimore, which fell to .500 at 46-46.

Adam Jones had two hits for the Orioles, and Chen allowed 10 hits in 6 1/3 innings on his 30th birthday.

Royals 3, Pirates 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Jarrod Dyson hit a two-run single in the eighth inning to lead Kansas City to the victory.

Dyson scored later in the inning on Alcides Escobar's single, and the Royals won for the 11th time in 14 games.

Wade Davis (6-1) got the win. Greg Holland survived a shaky ninth, allowing a run on four hits and a walk, but struck out Gregory Polanco with the bases loaded for his 21st save in 24 opportunities.

Pirates starter Gerrit Cole (13-4), who leads the majors in victories, was charged with three runs and five hits in 7 1/3 innings.

Astros 8, Red Sox 3

In Houston, Chris Carter hit a two-run homer, rookie Carlos Correa drove in two runs and Houston handed Boston its sixth straight loss.

Rookie Vince Velasquez (1-1) pitched six innings of three-run ball for his first career win in his seventh major league start. He was recalled from Double-A Corpus Christi on Tuesday.

The Astros rallied with four runs in the fifth, and Carter's 16th homer made it 7-3 in the sixth. Carter returned to the lineup after missing two games with a sprained right ankle.

Boston starter Brian Johnson (0-1) allowed three hits and four runs with four walks in 4 1/3 innings in his major league debut. He was 8-6 with a 2.73 ERA in 16 starts at Triple-A Pawtucket.

Mariners 11, Tigers 9

In Detroit, Franklin Gutierrez's pinch-hit grand slam in the eighth inning, sending Seattle to the win.

The Tigers had come back from a 5-1 deficit and led 8-6 when Neftali Feliz (1-3) allowed five runs in the eighth. Feliz, who was picked up by Detroit on July 11 after refusing a minor league assignment from Texas, allowed a run on a wild pitch before giving up Gutierrez's opposite-field drive. There was no activity in the Detroit bullpen as Seattle rallied.

Joe Beimel (1-1) earned the win, and Carson Smith got four outs for his eighth save.

Seattle's Nelson Cruz and Detroit's J.D. Martinez each hit long home runs to center field in the third.

Yoenis Cespedes and Nick Castellanos also connected for the Tigers.

Cardinals 8, White Sox 5

In Chicago, Matt Holliday hit his sixth career grand slam, powering Michael Wacha and the Cardinals to the road win.

Holliday homered for the first time since May 12. He returned last Friday after missing 31 games because of a strained right quadriceps.

Mark Reynolds added a solo shot in the fifth for St. Louis.

Wacha (11-3) gave up five runs in five innings. Trevor Rosenthal pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 30 chances.

White Sox rookie Tyler Saladino homered for the second straight game. Geovany Soto also connected for Chicago, and Carlos Rodon (3-3) was tagged for seven runs in four innings.

Braves 4, Dodgers 3

In Atlanta, Chris Johnson drove in two runs for Atlanta, and Alex Wood overcame control problems on a hot night.

The Braves, who had lost seven of nine overall, improved to 18-6 at home in games decided by two runs or fewer.

It was a tough evening for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who have lost consecutive games for the first time since June 22-23 at the Chicago Cubs. Los Angeles starter Brett Anderson left the game in the third after irritating his left Achilles tendon.

Wood (7-6) threw just 59 of his 107 pitches for strikes, but was charged with three runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings. Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his eighth save in 11 chances.

Justin Turner and Yasiel Puig homered for Los Angeles. Chin-hui Tsao (1-1) got the loss.

Mets 7, Nationals 2

In Washington, pinch-hitter Eric Campbell put New York ahead with his two-run single in the seventh inning, leading the Mets to the victory.

Fresh off his dominant display in the All-Star Game a week ago, Jacob deGrom (10-6) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings. He struck out eight in his first win over the division-rival Nationals in four tries.

Campbell was batting for deGrom when he knocked in Wilmer Flores and Kirk Nieuwenhuis to give New York a 3-2 lead.

Wilson Ramos hit a two-run homer for Washington, which leads the NL East by two games over the Mets. Joe Ross (2-2) gave up three runs—two earned—and four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Rays 1, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Nathan Karns homered and pitched five innings for Tampa Bay, ruining the major league debut of Philadelphia's Aaron Nola.

Karns (5-5) allowed three hits and walked two, helping the Rays win for just the third time in their last 13 road games. The right-hander also bounced back from his last outing on July 9 when he allowed career highs of seven runs and nine hits in an 8-3 loss at Kansas City.

Nola (0-1) gave up five hits in six innings, but the Phillies managed just four hits. The 22-year-old Nola was the seventh overall selection by the Phillies in the 2014 draft, making him the first Philadelphia player since Pat Combs in 1989 to appear in the big leagues a year after being drafted.

The Phillies had won four in a row.

Brad Boxberger pitched the ninth for his 24th save.

Brewers 8, Indians 1

In Milwaukee, Matt Garza pitched six shutout innings for Milwaukee in his return from the disabled list, and Jean Segura hit a two-run homer for his first extra-base hit in more than six weeks.

Garza (5-10) scattered six hits, walked two and struck out four.

Milwaukee has won four consecutive games and 17 of 23 but remains in last place in the NL Central. Cleveland has lost four of six.

Indians right-hander Danny Salazar (8-5) struck out eight in six innings. He allowed three runs, two hits and walked three.

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Mat Latos allowed four hits through seven innings in his third straight strong start and Miami snapped a four-game losing streak.

Michael Morse homered off Jeremy Hellickson (6-6) in the Diamondbacks' seventh loss in their last eight games. Adeiny Hechavarria and Christian Yelich each had an RBI single.

Latos (4-6) struck out seven, matching his season high for the second straight game, and walked one. The 6-foot-6 right-hander has allowed a combined three runs over his last three starts — a span of 20 innings. In his previous outing, he gave up one run and one hit in seven innings but took the loss against the Cubs in Chicago.

A.J. Pollock singled twice for the Diamondbacks. The other hits off Latos were a single by Paul Goldschmidt and an infield single by Yasmany Tomas.

Blue Jays 7, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Russell Martin, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion homered to power Toronto.

Martin hit a three-run shot to chase former Blue Jays right-hander Kendall Graveman (6-6) in the sixth. Bautista and Encarnacion each connected for a solo shot.

Mark Buehrle (11-5) allowed one run and eight hits in seven innings. The left-hander struck out three and walked none as the Blue Jays improved to 3-1 since the All-Star break.

Graveman came to the A's in the offseason trade that brought All-Star third baseman Josh Donaldson to Toronto. Donaldson doubled twice and drove in a run in his first game back in Oakland.

Giants 9, Padres 3

In San Diego, rookie Chris Heston took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and Hector Sanchez hit an impressive grand slam for one of three San Francisco home runs.

Heston, who no-hit the New York Mets on June 9, allowed one hit and faced just two over the minimum in 7 1/3 innings. He received a standing ovation from the many Giants fans in the stands above the third-base dugout when he was pulled by manager Bruce Bochy after issuing a one-out walk in the seventh. He struck out six and walked two.

Heston and two relievers combined on a four-hitter. The Padres scored three unearned runs in the ninth.

Heston (10-5) didn't allow a hit until Melvin Upton Jr.'s broken-bat, bloop single over the outstretched glove of second baseman Joe Panik leading off the sixth.

San Diego's Odrisamer Despaigne (3-7) allowed six runs and seven hits in five-plus innings, struck out one and walked two.

Angels 7, Twins 0

In Anaheim, Calif., Matt Shoemaker pitched six innings of two-hit ball for his first home win of the season in nine tries, batterymate Chris Iannetta had a homer and four RBIs, and Los Angeles got its season-high sixth straight victory.

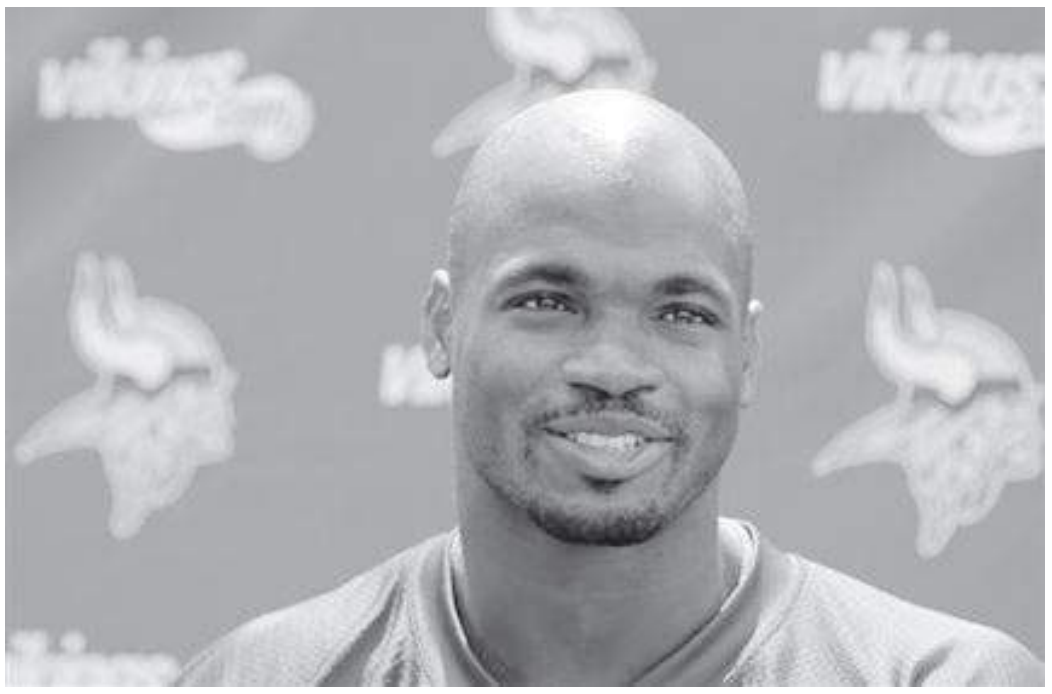
The AL West-leading Angels overcame three baserunning blunders while maintaining their two-game lead over Houston, a team they trailed by seven games on May 4. The win was the Angels' 12th in 14 games.

Star center fielder Mike Trout, the only player to appear in each of the Angels' first 92 games, was scratched because of a sore left heel that bothered him from the moment he woke up and started walking on it.

Shoemaker (5-7) yielded a leadoff single in the fifth to Eduardo Nunez and a two-out single by Joe Mauer in the sixth before coming out after 88 pitches with a 7-0 lead.

Minnesota's Kyle Gibson (8-7) was charged with six runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings.

Peterson, Vikings agree to redo last 3 years of deal



AP

In this June 18, 2015, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson talks with members of the media after NFL football minicamp in Eden Prairie, Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Adrian Peterson and the Minnesota Vikings agreed Tuesday to restructure the final three years of his contract, giving the six-time Pro Bowl running back $20 million in guaranteed money.

The Vikings announced the agreement four days before players will report to training camp, clearing away any lingering haze that surrounded their relationship with Peterson. Initially disinterested in returning to the team following his reinstatement by the NFL, Peterson softened this spring and took part in several offseason practices with the Vikings last month.

Peterson and his lead agent, Ben Dogra, didn't appear to have any leverage in negotiations once Vikings general manager Rick Spielman stood firm in his intent to keep Peterson on the team rather than trade him. But despite the drama of the past several months, Peterson got the guaranteed money he sought, another sign of the organization's widespread appreciation of him.

In a statement distributed by the Vikings, Peterson said he was pleased by the team's good-faith effort. On Twitter, he posted simply, "Amen," next to an emoji of a pair of praying hands.

"I appreciate the Vikings for working together on this restructured contract, which provides additional security for me but also allows opportunities for me to further prove my value to the team and within the NFL," Peterson said in the statement. "It was important for me to continue my career in Minnesota, and I cannot wait to get on the field in front of Vikings fans again."

Peterson, out of action for all but one game last year because of the child abuse charge he faced involving his young son, came back from his personal conduct policy suspension with $45 million left on his existing contract. None of that money, however, was guaranteed.

According to a person with knowledge of the situation, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the terms of the contract, Peterson will be guaranteed $20 million for signing the new deal. That's the $13 million he was previously scheduled to make this season, plus $7 million next year to cover him in case of injury. By next March, he can make another $5 million with a roster bonus. Peterson's salary cap hit will be a bit lower the next two seasons, but he can earn back more money with performance incentives.

Peterson will be the highest-paid running back in the league.

The revamped contract clearly is designed for him to be in Minnesota's backfield when US Bank Stadium opens in 2016.

"This agreement is a win for both Adrian and the Vikings and is a positive step toward Adrian finishing his career as a Minnesota Viking," Spielman said in a statement distributed by the team. "As we have consistently said, Adrian is a valuable part of the Vikings organization and we look forward to his return to the field."

This will essentially become a two-year deal plus a team option for the third season, when the Vikings would be off the hook if they were to decide he wasn't productive enough to keep at age 32. According to data on the NFL Players Association's website, Peterson will have a base salary of $17.75 million in 2017, which would be a raise of $1 million from the previous contract. Factoring in his $250,000 workout bonus, that's $18 million.

That also is a matter for another day. For now, the Vikings have their franchise player back in the fold after a tumultuous year away, yet another example of money resolving a conflict in this ultra-competitive league.

Titans announce deal with Mariota

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota signed with the Tennessee Titans on Tuesday, becoming the last of the NFL's first-round draft picks to finalize his deal.

The former Oregon quarterback is expected to start immediately, with the timing of the contract keeping the No. 2 overall pick on track to open the season Sept. 13 at Tampa Bay against Jameis Winston—the No. 1 overall selection from the draft.

The Titans started three quarterbacks while going 2-14 in coach Ken Whisenhunt's debut season. They were so excited about adding Mariota that Whisenhunt began tweaking his offense to fit the quarterback's skills weeks before the draft.

"I am very grateful and honored to have this opportunity," Mariota said in a statement. "I look forward to the future with my teammates, and I'm truly excited to be part of this team."

Mariota left Oregon after his redshirt junior season. In 2014, the 6-foot-4 222-pounder from Hawaii directed the most efficient offense in the country and led all quarterbacks with a 90.9 rating. Mariota threw for 4,454 yards and 42 touchdowns, while rushing for 770 yards and 15 scores. He was only intercepted four times last season.

That combination of size, mobility and efficiency prompted the Titans to make him their third quarterback drafted within the first eight selections since 2006, and a franchise with only one winning record in the past six seasons has been busy selling Mariota since the moment he was announced as their newest player.

But the timing of Mariota's contract caused a bit of apprehension for fans of the team. Whether or not the Titans would have Mariota signed in time for the first practice of camp July 31 had been a hot topic on talk radio the past few weeks.

"We look forward to him starting his career on time with his teammates when we open camp next week," general manager Ruston Webster said. "This is an exciting time for the Tennessee Titans organization, and we look forward to a bright future."

NMI

From Page 28

finals that completed the Commonwealth's Southern island neighbor's dominance in the tournament.

Diaz said he and the coaches of the two other local teams—Marianas Alu'u and Marianas Tataga—learned a lot when they go up against champion Guam and Palau, which finished third.

"I'm pretty sure that me and the other coaches learned a lot from this tournament, especially seeing the level of Guam's play. We weren't ready to play against their man-to-man defense and we need to learn about that. We need to make the adjustment especially during the games," said Diaz in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"We need to improve further especially if we are going up against teams like Guam and Palau. We need to work on how to execute our transition defense and passing like Guam. Guam does not dribble much."

Diaz added that the CNMI players, who were shorter against Guam, must also learn how to outhustle and box out their bigger opponents to grab the rebounds. "We took videos of the games and saw how Guam dominated the boards."

"It is just the fundamentals of the game that we need to work on, like footwork. We need to make plays on how to break the press and half court defense. We're short so we need to box out their rebounders."

"When we played against Palau, we used man-to-man defense and we beat them," said Diaz, who guided the Dolphins to a tough 61-56 victory over Palau in their opening match and a 70-59 drubbing in their semifinals encounter.

He added that Guam focused more on a team concept of play and shot better from the field the entire tournament.

"When Guam plays, they just keep on fighting and they play hard. They immediately get back on defense even if they miss a shot. If they're called for a foul, they never complain or talk to the referees to contest the calls."

"For me that just shows how disciplined Guam is in playing. Guam showed a whole different way of playing the game. They get back in transition and let the coach do their part."

Diaz ended.

Diaz said that some of his Under-15 players are moving up to U16 but he would keep the remaining members intact to prepare for other local and off-island tournaments.

Dalton Dancoe, Aaron Ogumoro, Christian Arceo, Angelo Factor, Emmanuel Cobacha, Jun Alipio, Matthew Mamaril, Jude Tengco, Chioni Dela Cruz, Jake Pangelinan, Jhon Mendoza, and Ezekiel Quiroz are the members of the Dolphins, with John Babauta as assistant coach.

Islam Khalid, Evan Miller, Adonis Favor, Darryl Soriano, Rikko Lizama, Drew Bayot, Carl Itaas, Sean Apasan, Kent Ogasawara, Bud Jason Norita, and Tim Pangelinan composed the Preston Basa-coached Alu'u with Greg Iginoef as assistant.

Matthew Richardson, Roger Valencia, Elijah Quiroz, Joseph Kisa, J.P. Cruz, Corey Leon, Richard Baleares, John Ichihara, Paulo Caddag, and Matthew Ong are the members of the Tataga that's also coached by Diaz with Kanata Omori as assistant.

TONGA

From Page 28

would have to ask for funds from donor partners to deliver a Pacific Games that could pass regional and international standards.

Fusimalohi told Radio Australia that a cloud of uncertainty looms on Tonga's hosting of the Games based on "the current level of planning and preparation."

"I'm lost for words. We had a plan—seven years of fundraising and seven years of planning to 2019. The politicking in Tonga has been quite unprecedented with regards to the Games," said Fusimalohi, who added that people who are involved in the initial planning stages were not allowed to join the Games Organizing Committee.

"We had plans for business franchising and how we can generate that revenue without even touching on taxes. The new committee took another two years to do a new plan," Fusimalohi said.

He said the main issue is the question of time and funding in order to build additional infrastructure and facilities in time for the Games. "If we do get the money, can we actually make it by 2019 to have all this infrastructure up? And that's three years from now."

"Tonga cannot afford not to host the Games. If we don't host the Games, Tonga will not in the foreseeable future, ever get the Games back."

Even the Pacific Games Council is also concerned on the way things are going on Tonga's planning saying that they are "almost two years late in preparing for the Games."

Taumoepeau, however, downplayed the recent calls for Tonga to pull out of hosting the Games. He said that there were certain sectors of the Tongan community who are against in holding the Pacific Games.

But he assured that their preparations are in full swing and going ahead as planned. "Overall, we are working well with the Pacific Games Council and the government."

In the last few days, there have been calls from the government and the country's chamber of commerce to pull out of hosting the prestigious event".

Tu'ivakano, on the other hand, said during the closing ceremony as Tonga took over the reins of organizing the Games four years from now that PNG hosting "have left a legacy to be cherished by all of us here."

"His Majesty King Tupou VI and the government of the kingdom of Tonga are committed and deeply honoured to be hosting the 16th Pacific Games in four years' time. Welcome to the Friendly Islands. Our people, our Games, God bless us all!"

ARCEO

From Page 28

average. He highlighted that performance with a 24-point output in the Dolphins' 103-47 crushing of the Marianas Tataga last July 14.

Palau's shifty forwards M.J. Baysa and Wallace Worswick came in tied for second to third each averaging 15.3 points per game.

Worswick also scored the most points in the tournament when he erupted for 31 markers in Palau's 108-60 demolition of the Marianas Alu'u in their battle for third last Saturday.

Omar Ganac, Palau's crafty playmaker, was next on the list behind his teammates with a 13.3 average followed by two Guam players.

Guam big man DeAndre Cruz was fifth on the list with 12.8 points a game with Napu San Luis a close sixth with a 12.5 scoring average.

Dalton Dancoe was seventh on the list with 12.0 with Guam guards Michael Min and Gabriel Simon occupying the eighth and ninth spots with averages of 11.3 and 10.3 points, respectively.

The Dolphins' Jun Alipio completed the Top 10 list with a 9.5 points per outing average.

Arceo and Worswick also led the Mythical Team Selection list and were joined by Guam's Aishea Grape, Bud Jason Norita of the Alu'u and Matthew Richardson of the Tataga.

2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 Awarding

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The participating teams in the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 pose for a group photo before hitting the waters near the beach at Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel last Saturday.

Guam's Aishea Grape, right, receives his Mythical Team award from Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Lawrence Camacho.

NMI Rollers Basketball Association president Juan Dela Cruz, right, joins the Marianas Dolphins, composed mostly of players from their group, for a group photo after receiving the second place trophy.

Palau finished third in the weeklong tournament but will be most remembered as one of the hardest-fighting teams.

Team Guam and coach Brent Tipton, second right, celebrate with their medals and championship trophy.

Wallace Worswick of Team Palau, right, was named to the MBT Mythical Selection.

The Marianas Dolphins' Christian Arceo, center, is joined by coach Joe Diaz when he received his Mythical Team award.

DeAndre Jordan happy with Clippers after free agent 'fiasco'

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rockies routed 9-0 by Rangers as Choo hits for the cycle

PAGE 25

'NMI needs to work harder with youth program'

JON PEREZ

Marianas Dolphins coach Joe Diaz, second right, joins his team along with assistant coaches John Babauta, left, and Kanata Omori, right. Also in photo is Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director and former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands official Tony Rogolifoi.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas Dolphins coach Joe Diaz said the local basketball community should work doubly hard when it comes to its youth development program if the CNMI hopes to raise its level like its island neighbors.

Diaz made the statement after the second place finish of the Dolphins, composed mostly of players under the NMI Rollers Basketball Association program, in the recently concluded 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15.

The FIBA-accredited coach, despite suffering consecutive lopsided defeats at the hands of Guam, said their experience in the regional basketball tournament was a huge learning experience.

The Dolphins dropped a 41-94 decision against Guam in their first meeting in the elimination round then suffered a 40-75 thrashing in the

See NMI on Page 26

Tonga ready to face challenge of '19 Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tongan sports officials expressed confidence that they could pull through hosting the 2019 Pacific Games in Nuku'alofa to downplay earlier reports that they are having problems in organizing the quadrennial sporting event.

Tonga received the hosting rights from Papua New Guinea during last Saturday's closing ceremony of the XV Pacific Games at the Sir John Guise Stadim.

Tongan National Olympic Committee secretary general Takitoa Taumoepeau and Tonga Pacific Games Association president Lady Robyn Tu'ivakano said in an interview with The *Fiji Times* that they are working closely with the government of His Majesty King Tupou VI and the private sector for the successful hosting of the Games.

Tonga Prime Minister Akilisi Pohiva and Tonga Amateur Sports Association and National Olympic Committee vice president Ahongalu Fusimalohi, in a separate interview by Radio Australia, said they are doubtful on the Pacific nation's hosting of the XVI Pacific Games.

Pohiva noted that Tonga's "financial position was at an unsatisfactory level and it might be impossible to prepare well for it."

The Tongan leader said they

See TONGA on Page 26

PNG2015 FACEBOOK

Representatives of the Tonga 2019 Pacific Games Organizing Committee pose during the closing ceremony of the 2015 Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

SIDEBAR

Arceo is MBT top scorer; but Guam has 4 players on list

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Dolphins' Christian Arceo was the top scorer in the recently concluded 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 to lead two of his teammates on the Top 10 list.

Eventual champion Guam had four players entering the list to showcase their dominance while Palau, another visiting team, occupied three more.

Arceo collected a total of 70 points in the four games he played in the elimination round to finish with a 17.5

See ARCEO on Page 26

JON PEREZ

The Marianas Dolphins' Christian Arceo (10) in action in their opening game against Team Palau in the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 last July 12 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.